

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
Secretariat General



The GCC

Process & Achievement

Information Center

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Their Majesties and Highnesses Leaders of the GCC Member States

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Foreword

The Gulf Cooperation Council represents a systematic process of coordination and a continuous movement of persisted collective action aiming to achieve the objectives set forth in the Charter. This process continues to yield generous results in all fields thanks to the political will and the sound insight of Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC Member States, and the interaction of the GCC citizens with this process since its very beginning. Thus, popular support has become an important factor in pushing the wheel of the joint action and maximizing the outputs of its process.

Over the past years, the GCC has been able to lay down its organizational infrastructure and develop the necessary structures and bodies to achieve its objectives. Since the outset, the GCC has adopted its own approach and methodology, which is one of the elements of its success and power. Such approach is based on graduated progress and achievements, while maintaining the main objectives, seeking to develop convictions and avoiding the errors of past experiences in the region; no abridgement of phases, but rather deliberated steps, taking into account the nature and requirements of the collective action.

The achievements and the issues addressed by the GCC during this period reflect the comprehensiveness of its process in the various political, economic, social, cultural and security areas, as well as the good paces it has stepped towards the fulfillment of the objectives set forth in its Charter. The GCC has become a powerful dimension present at local, regional and international levels.

Over the recently past years, the GCC has achieved an important and advanced stage of integration and unification, featured by shifting from a Free Trade Area to a Customs Union and later the launch of the GCC Common Market. Efforts continue to be made for establishing the Monetary Union and introducing the Single Currency, especially with the approval in December 2008 of the Monetary Union Agreement and the Statute of

the Monetary Council. However, the economic field is not the only area of focus, as a substantial advancement has been attained in all areas of GCC joint action.

We are proud of the achievements and successes accomplished so far, which are the source of our confidence in what is to come. This publication gives a brief of such achievements without burdening the reader with the details and efforts that have been made to reach those achievements.

Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Secretary General

Introduction

The Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf is pleased to introduce the Fourth Edition of this publication "GCC: The Process and Achievements". It presents a comprehensive description of the achievements of the Joint Action progress over the past years.

This publication is divided into sections and chapters. Section (I) presents the achievements of the GCC in the political and security areas, which are several and versatile but can be summed up indicating that the GCC has achieved several successes due to its mechanisms of consultation, coordination and unification of stances, and the development of common policies and collective actions at times of peace and crises. The chapters of this Section address the achievements of the joint action in the areas of external policy, security, defense and media.

Section (II) addresses economic cooperation in all fields. Its chapters explain the shifting of the GCC from the Free Trade Area established in 1983 to the Customs Union, thus allowing the GCC States to enter the second phase of economic integration. Then the GCC Common Market was launched in January 2008 after fulfilling most of its requirements and as a culmination of many previous steps taken in context of "economic citizenship" in the GCC. The chapter dealing with the Monetary Union explains the joint action in this regard and the steps that have been taken toward the launch of the Monetary Union and the introduction of the single currency in 2010. The remaining chapters deal with all aspects of the joint economic action and the significant achievements made in the fields of energy, industry, patents, electricity, water, transportation, communication, telecommunication, agriculture, planning, statistics and development.

Section (III) deals with the achievements of the GCC in areas relating to Human and Environment Affairs, which include education, the collective efforts aimed at developing the educational curricula and institutions, supporting scientific research, integrating the GCC labor market, fostering

women's condition and families, developing plans for cultural development, enhancing cooperation in the field of health, supporting joint action in the municipal and housing fields, and encouraging sport and youth welfare sectors.

Section (IV) deals with the juridical and legal cooperation as the GCC States have sought convergence and standardization of their laws and regulations as well as enhancing coordination among their judicial bodies and unification of all kinds, levels and procedures thereof. This section also deals with the achievements of the Consultative Commission of the Supreme Council that is assigned to study certain important topics in the economic, social, educational, scientific, media and security areas, and the assessment of the GCC process progress.

Finally, Section (V) describes the areas of regional cooperation and economic relations with other countries and groupings. Chapter (1) of this section deals with cooperation with the Republic of Yemen that has acceded to a number of entities. Chapter (2) explains the development of collective economic relations with some Arab countries such as Lebanon, Syria and some other countries and groupings such as the European Union, the Peoples Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of India, the Republic of Turkey, the Mercosur Group, the European Free Trade Association, USA, Japan and the ASEAN.

Some statistical data are appended to this book, to illustrate in figures, some aspects of the joint action achievements and the gains attained since its inception on 25 May 1981.

Information Center
GCC Secretariat-General



SECTION ONE

COOPERATION IN THE POLITICAL, MILITARY,
SECURITY AND MEDIA AREAS

Chapter (1)

Cooperation in the field of External Policy

The similarity among GCC Member States has enabled the GCC to adopt common attitudes towards political issues and policies which are based on neighborly principles, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect of sovereignty of each state over its territories and resources, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. That has conferred much credibility upon the GCC as an international organization playing an important role in this vital area of the world.

The most important political and strategic objectives

Coordination and cooperation in the field of external policy aim at adopting common positions towards political issues that are of common concern to the GCC States within Arab, regional, and international contexts, as well as behaving as a single group vis-à-vis rest of the world within a framework of principles based on mutual respect, non-intervention in internal affairs and the observance of common interests, in such a manner that maintains the common interests of the GCC Member States , enhances their stability and meets the approval of their peoples.

The most important political objectives of the GCC can be summed up as follows:

- During the eighties of the twentieth century, the most important GCC political and strategic objectives focused on the GCC stability and security through facing the causes of instability and the sources of threat mainly posed by the Iraq-Iran war, which required collective action by the GCC States to avoid expansion of the war, and contribute towards reaching a cease fire.
- In the nineties, the aggression by the former Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait and the subsequent occupation of the country, posed the most

serious security challenge ever encountered since the establishment of the GCC. Therefore, the liberation of Kuwait was the top priority of the GCC then.

- After the war, intensive diplomatic common action was needed to support the United Nations seeking to force Iraq to implement relevant resolutions of the Security Council.
- Supporting the United Arab Emirates in exercising its right, through all peaceful means, to restore its sovereignty over the its islands: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, which have been occupied by Iran since 1971 .
- Within the Arab framework, the GCC Member States adopted collective action to support the Arab issues and causes; the Palestinian issue being first priority, and the peace process in the Middle East.
- Supporting and enhancing Islamic issues.

The most important achievements in the field of external policy

Contribution to the containment and termination of the Iraqi-Iranian war

The Iraq-Iran war was at its first year when the GCC was established and it was the concern of the sessions of the Supreme Council since the first Summit that was held on my 1981, in Abu Dhabi. The GCC States used all their political and moral potentials to find a way out of that bloody war, which inflicted substantial human and material losses on both sides and disturbed regional security.

Within the Arab framework, the GCC action came up with the seven-lateral committee that was formed for reaching a cease-fire. At the international level, the political efforts of the GCC States contributed to highlighting the war and seeking the means for reaching a solution. Those efforts resulted in the issuance of the Security Council Resolution No.540 in October 1983 that called for the immediate suspension of military operations in the Gulf and avoiding targeting the vessels, economic installations and ports. Security

Council Resolution No. 552 followed in June 1984, in response to a claim made by the GCC States against the attacks at the commercial vessels navigating from and to the ports of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait. The said resolution stressed the right of navigation in the territorial waters and marine routes from and to the ports and installations of countries that were not parties in the war acts. Finally, the GCC States effectively contributed to the issuance of the Security Council Resolution No. 598 (July 1987), an historical resolution which put an end to that destructive war after being accepted by both parties.

Liberation of the State of Kuwait

When the Iraqi regime invaded and occupied the State of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, the GCC States hastened, since the very beginning, to take action on the principle that an attack against any Member State is an attack against all other GCC States. The GCC States were the core of political and diplomatic action rejecting the aggression and consequences thereof and calling for unconditional withdrawal. The GCC Foreign Ministers held an exceptional meeting in Cairo on August 3, 1990 on the sideline of the meetings of the Council of the Arab League. The efforts of the GCC States resulted in convening the extraordinary Arab Summit in Cairo on August 10th 1990; two meetings of Arab Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization had preceded the summit on 3rd and 4th of August 1990 respectively. Moreover, the GCC States effectively contributed to the issuance of a number of Security Council resolutions calling for an unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops and restoration of legality. The series of resolutions began with Security Council resolution No. 660 in August 3, 1990 denouncing the invasion and calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal thru resolution No. 678 in 29 November 1990 that authorized the use of all necessary means to support and enforce the relevant Security Council resolutions and restore international security and peace to the region. Other relevant resolutions calling for the elimination of the aggression consequences were issued as well.

In this context, the 11th GCC Summit held in Doha in December 1990 reaffirmed the GCC States position against the aggression and the determination to resist and eliminate its consequences, on the principle that any aggression on any Member State is an aggression on all, and that the security of the GCC States is integral. The GCC States played a crucial role in the liberation of the State of Kuwait through exploiting their political and diplomatic credit and their military and material capacities for the sake of liberation that was attained in February 1991. Thereafter, the GCC States have called for the implementation of the relevant of Security Council's resolutions and elimination of the consequences of invasion and occupation.

Supporting the integrity, stability and sovereignty of Iraq

After the collapse of the former Iraqi regime, the GCC States expressed, on several occasions, their strong support to the Iraqi people in the political hardship they have undergone through enhancing the vital role of the United Nations in the political process in Iraq as stipulated in the Security Council resolution No. 1546 in 8 June 2004. The GCC States also supported the legislative elections, the adoption of the constitution and subsequent procedures for completing the political building of the state of Iraq. They called all Iraqi parties to form a national unity government, which represents all ethnic and religious sects of Iraq without discrimination. A government that expresses the aspirations of the Iraqi people as well as the Arab world towards laying down the foundations of a secure, stable and unified Iraq that is capable of managing its affairs by itself and resuming its role as an active member at both the Arab and international levels. The GCC States have also sought, through participation in the conferences of the donor countries, the Paris Club, the meetings of Iraq's neighboring countries and bilateral contacts, to accelerate the economic reconstruction of Iraq. The GCC States supported the Document of the International Commitment towards Iraq that was adopted at Sharm El-Sheikh on 4-5 May 2007. The Document contained a five-year-plan for rendering financial, political and technical support to Iraq, provided that the Iraqi government should implement political, security and economic reforms.

The GCC expressed its deep concern over the acts of violence and the terrorist crimes, including attacks on sacred and worship places, and called all national factions in Iraq to unite in confronting the attempts of partition and sectarian discord. The GCC has affirmed that achieving security and stability in Iraq requires a political and security solution that remedies the causes of the crisis, extracts the roots of sectarian discord and terrorist acts and attains real Iraqi national reconciliation, in support to all efforts being made by the Iraqi government in this connection.

The GCC also has affirmed the respect of the integrity, sovereignty and independence of Iraq, the rejection of the calls for partition and division, emphasizing non-interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and regarding the national unity as the key to the solution in Iraq. In this context, a number of GCC Member States reopened their embassies in Baghdad, and exempted Iraq from owed debt.

Supporting the issue of the three UAE occupied islands

Since 1992, the issue of the three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Mousa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates has become a constant item on the agenda of the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council. The GCC States have supported the UAE stand in this regard and demanded Iran to end its occupation of these three islands and enter into direct negotiations with the UAE on the three islands or refer the issue to the International Court of Justice.

Among the important steps in this connection was the resolution of the Ministerial Council at its 71st session (Jeddah 3 July 1999) that called for the formation of a ministerial committee composed of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and His Excellency the Secretary General of the GCC with the aim to develop a mechanism for initiating direct negotiations for the settlement of this issue. The GCC States hoped that Iran would welcome that committee which would have been an important opening to lay the ground for resolving the issue of the three islands. But Iran refused to receive that committee. In

an expanded international effort, the GCC States urged other countries as well as regional and international groupings to convince Iran to accept the peaceful efforts made by UAE for the settlement of this issue.

Relations with Iran

Iran's occupation of the three UAE islands since November 1971 has been a great source of concern that has impeded the possible expansion of relations between the GCC States and Iran. The GCC States have developed a collective framework for relations with Iran based on the neighborly principles, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes and rejecting defacto policies force. The Ministerial Council has also urged to activate the amicable dialogue, bilateral contacts and exchanging of visits with Iran at all levels. This has led to signing several bilateral agreements and MOUs that have covered economic and security areas. The GCC States have called upon Iran, through consecutive declarations issued by the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council, to respond to the initiative of the GCC and UAE for the settlement of the issue of the three islands through peaceful means, and that Iran must implement its announced positive political orientations.

Iran's Nuclear Dossier

Committed to the GCC firm principles calling for respect of international legality and the settlement of disputes through peaceful means, the GCC has emphasized the importance of reaching a peaceful solution of this crisis and has urged Iran to continue the international dialogue and full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and abide by IAEA standards. The GCC also has demanded that Israel accede to the Convention on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and subject all its nuclear installations to IAEA inspection system. The GCC has called on the international community to press Israel to respond to the international community's requirements in this respect. Moreover, the GCC has demanded that the Middle East region, as well as the Gulf area, be free of weapons of mass destruction. The GCC has also affirmed the right of the countries of the region to possess expertise in

the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In this connection, the GCC States declared that they would conduct a study on developing a common program for the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes subject to international standards and regulations.

Supporting the Palestinian issue and the peace process

Since established, the GCC has declared its clear position towards the Palestinian issue and the peace process and has expressed its support to the rights of the Palestinian people; rejecting and denouncing the aggressive policies and acts against the Palestinian people. The GCC also has its efforts with a view to reaching a long-standing, fair and comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict. The declaration of the first session of the Supreme Council (May 1981) reflected full commitment by the GCC States to support the peace process in the Middle East. The GCC States then declared that "sustainable stability in the Gulf depends on the enforcement of peace in the Middle East, and stressed the need for a just solution of the Palestinian issue; a solution that ensures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return home and establish their independent state, calling for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, particularly Holy Jerusalem.

Hence, the GCC States have supported the initiatives aimed at finding a comprehensive fair solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposed two initiatives for the solution of this conflict in 1981 and later in 2002. Represented by H.E. the Secretary General, the GCC States also participated in the Peace Conference in Madrid, 1991. The GCC States do adhere to the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Arab Summit Conference at Beirut in 2002. The GCC States, as well as the other Arab countries, reiterated at the 20th Summit that was held in Damascus, in March 2007, that the Arab Peace Initiative depends on Israel's adherence and implementation of its commitments within the framework of international legality for securing peace in the region.

The GCC States also welcomed the “The Road Map” plan that provides for the elimination of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of a Palestinian state, and implementation of the obligations based on Madrid Conference, the “Land for Peace” principle, and the UN resolutions. The GCC States also supported the efforts of the International Quartet Committee sponsoring the peace process and those of the international community for implementation of the “The Road Map” plan based on the Arab peace initiative.

Within the same context, the GCC States welcomed the Security Council's unanimously adoption of resolution No. 1515 in November 2003 supporting the “The Road Map” for reaching a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through establishing two states that co-exist in peace and security, stressing the need for a permanent and comprehensive peace for all parties including Syria and Lebanon.

The GCC States also supported Annapolis Conference called for by US President. George W. Bush, wherein all parties concerned with the peace process participated. The Conference objective was to launch direct negotiations on all tracks with a view to reaching a comprehensive settlement of the peace process based on the Arab Peace Initiative, the Road Map, and the relevant Security Council's resolutions and to enter into direct negotiations on various issues of the final solution of the Arab-Israel conflict. The GCC States regret that Israel has not adhered to its commitments made at Annapolis Conference concerning the acceleration of negotiations with the Palestinian National Authority and the establishment of the Palestinian state within the specified timeframe.

The GCC also has expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the atrocious acts exercised by the Israeli troops against the Palestinian people and the killing and terrifying civilians, women and children in the Palestinian occupied lands. The GCC strongly condemned Israel's raids and aggression on Gaza Strip and called the Security Council and international community, especially the United States, to assume full responsibility for and to take necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people.

Moreover the GCC has expressed its dissatisfaction with the acts of destruction and excavation being made by the authorities of the Israeli occupation within the circumference of the Holy Aqsa Mosque, and has called upon the international community and UNESCO to interfere and stop these acts targeting the sacred places, which invoke and insult the feelings of Muslims.

The GCC position is that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will only be achieved by establishing the independent Palestinian State having Jerusalem as its capital, the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan back to the line of demarcation as in June 4th 1967 and from Sheb'aa farms south Lebanon.

The GCC believes that the absence of a just solution of the Palestinian issue and the continued extreme suffering of the Palestinian people are the real cause of the escalating diverse disputes in the Middle East. The GCC has called upon the international community to give utmost priority to reaching a just solution to that issue in line with the rules of international legality, as the provisional solutions or partial settlements have proved to be inadequate and unacceptable to secure security and stability.

The GCC also welcomed the "Makkah Agreement" reached to by the Palestinians that would put an end to the internal fighting and form the national unity government. That Agreement was the fruit of the great efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, for having the Palestinian factions reach such a significant historical agreement.

Supporting the Arab Republic of Syria

Since established, the GCC has stressed its support to Syria and Arab policies and efforts to resist the Zionist expansion represented in annexing the Golan Heights and Arab lands, calling for discarding the Arab controversies and unity in the face of all challenges facing the Arab nation.

The GCC has continued its support to the Syrian stand, calling for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan back to the lines of June 4th 1967, on the basis of Madrid conference reference, "the land for peace" principle and implementation of Security Council resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, holding Israel responsible for impeding this track.

Support to Lebanon

Lebanon has been the subject of special attention by the GCC since the first meeting of the GCC leaders in 1981, where the declaration of the 1st Session of the Supreme Council reflected the concern of the GCC States about the integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon. The GCC has continued supporting the political, economic, security and stability of Lebanon, condemning Israel's attacks on the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and calling upon the people of Lebanon to strengthen and unify their position.

The GCC also expressed its deep concern over the Israeli attack on Lebanon in July 2006 and reaffirmed its support to the Lebanese people against any destruction or attack on Lebanon. The GCC also welcomed the Security Council's resolution No. 1701 calling to cease the military operations in Lebanon, and expressed its support to Lebanon in extending its full power and sovereignty on its national territories and to any international endeavor to restore its full rights, including its compensation for the human and financial loss incurred due to the Israeli aggression. The GCC also reaffirmed its support to Lebanon's call demanding to full Israeli withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally borders, including Sheb'aa farms in implementation of the Security Council resolutions Nos. 425 and 426.

In continuation of the political and economic support to Lebanon, including reconstruction, the GCC welcomed the positive conclusions of Paris Conference 3.

Following the events that had occurred in Lebanon since 2005, the GCC stressed that the Lebanese people need to work together in order to secure unity and enhance security and stability, adhere to the legitimate constitutional institutions and recourse to reason and dialogue in order to overcome the current situation that prejudices the stability of Lebanon, its national unity and independent political decision.

Given the Lebanese Dialogue Conference and the agreement reached at Doha in May 2008, the GCC appreciated and commended the great efforts made by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and Chairman of the GCC Supreme Council, who brought together all Lebanese factions to the "Doha Agreement" with a view to finding a way out of that political crisis. Those efforts were combined to the efforts made by the Arab League and the Ministerial Arab Committee chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabr Al Thani, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, and the membership of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, Foreign Ministers of Arab countries. The GCC welcomed the election of H.E. Michael Suleiman as president of the Republic of Lebanon. The GCC position is that the "Doha Agreement" should be completed by forming national unity government and initiating national dialogue. The GCC expressed its hope that Lebanon would enjoy security, stability and prosperity. The GCC hope that the parliamentary elections in June 2009 lead to strengthen the cooperation and co-existence between the spectra of the Lebanese people in order to maintain the security and stability of Lebanon.

The Situation in Somalia

The GCC has given a great deal of attention to the situation in Somalia and expressed its regret for the ongoing conflict and violence. The GCC has called upon all disputing parties to put an end to violence and abandon all operations which place obstacles in the path of national reconciliation efforts. In this context, the GCC stressed its support for the agreement reached in Djibouti on 9th June 2008, urging all Somali parties to abide by the commitments and agreements that were signed in Jeddah, Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. These agreement that aims to put an end to the human suffering and provide security, stability and prosperity to the Somalia people. In the same context, the GCC affirmed its support for the elected president Sheikh Sharif Ahmed and its constitutional government calling upon all Somali parties to cooperate to the best interests of the Somali people, ending its suffering and providing security, stability and peace in all parts of Somalia.

The Situation in Sudan

The Council has been concerned with the developments in Sudan and has welcomed the peace agreement between the Sudanese government and The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan, which was signed in Nairobi in January 2005; hoping that it will contribute to the conclusion of a similar comprehensive peace agreement concerning the region of Darfur, which will secure stability, security and prosperity in Sudan.

The GCC has been observing with concern the developments in the region of Darfur expressing its regret for the continuous human sufferings. In this regard, the GCC stressed the importance of the Peace Agreement signed in Abuja on 5 May 2006 auspices patronage of the African Union between the government of Sudan and one group of the opposing parties; and called the government of Sudan and the Sudanese sects to resort to dialogue and put the interests of the Sudanese people above all considerations. The Council also called the international community to exert more efforts to help Sudan and provide sufficient assistance that would enable it to reach a peaceful solution of the existing crisis in Darfur, especially that the government of Sudan has taken all positive steps for the settlement of the crisis in cooperation with the United Nations. The Council also appreciated the efforts of the Arab League, the African Union and the UN seeking an urgent solution of the crisis to stop fighting in that region.

The Council also welcomed the agreements signed between the government of Sudan, the African Union and the UN. The agreement identified the duties and role of the African and UN forces in Darfur. The Council commended the great role and efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, which led to the said agreement. The Council hopes that the Government of Sudan would be able to reach an agreement with the UN; an agreement that meets its demands and fulfills the interests of the international community concerning the deployment of the UN Forces in Darfur, stressing the importance of respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Sudan.

The Council also welcomed the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Chad that was signed in Riyadh under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. The Council expressed its hope that the agreement would foster the brotherly relationships between the two countries, serve the mutual interests of the two neighboring peoples and enhance security, peace and stability in the region.

Development and Modernization in the Arab World

The GCC emphasized its concern for accelerating the development and modernization steps in the Arab World and the Arab League, and commended the positive results of Tunisia Summit 2004, that adopted the accord and solidarity instrument and the development and modernization instrument. The Council stressed that development and modernization should be inspired by the countries of the region, taking into account the peculiarities and conditions of each country in terms of the political, economic, cultural and religious aspects and that the gradual development and modernization would improve the opportunities of stability, security and prosperity in the region.

Manama Declaration issued by the Supreme Council at its 25th session (Manama, December 2004) emphasized that trend. The declaration indicated that the GCC States are continuing full modernization to cope with

the civilization requirements of the age within a framework of a strategy consistent with the ambitious programmes aiming at fulfilling the aspirations and hopes of the GCC States and their peoples. The declaration renewed the solid belief that the substance of democracy should not be imported, but rather be sprung from the deep national identity.

The Dialogue with the other countries and international groupings

The GCC dialogue conducted at all levels, including, inter alia, the important meetings at the Foreign Ministers level held on the sideline of the meetings of the UN General Assembly in New York on September every year, is based on a firm conviction that such dialogue is of a great importance in terms of fostering the GCC relations with these countries and international groupings and asserting their presence at the international arena. Because such disciplined dialogue would deepen the mutual understanding about the issues discussed at the UN and its various bodies as well as the other regional and international issues.

Such dialogue is an indispensable entrance and tribunal for enhancing the policy of the GCC States aiming to support the Arab and Islamic issues at the international forums while stressing that the GCC States share the free world its concerns and many concepts and civilization values, in addition to many mutual interests that shall be maintained and taken into consideration.

Through political dialogue, the GCC could achieve the following:

- Defending the Arab and Islamic issues at the international level, which had a positive impact on the correction of several negative concepts and images about the Arab world and Islamic issues causing the international community to sympathize with such issues; the GCC States have reiterated their rejection of offending any religions or symbols thereof
- As regards the fight on terrorism, the GCC States have been successful in confronting that unjust campaign linking Islam to terrorism. The GCC States stressed that Islam is a religion that objects all forms of terrorism.

- As regards the Palestinian issue and the peace in the Middle East, the GCC States stressed the importance of securing fair peace in the Middle East based on UN resolutions, particularly resolutions Nos. 242 and 338 and the "Land for peace" principle. The GCC States have also highlighted the Israeli inhuman racial practices in the occupied Arab lands, such practices that violate international laws and human rights. They have also stressed the right of the Palestinian people in its legitimate struggle against occupation, and called for distinguishing between the lawful struggle for self-determination and terrorism.
- The GCC States have also pointed out in their dialogue to the state terrorism that Israel exercises against the Palestinians, such as the killing and destruction of houses, targeting civilians and national leaders and the destruction of the infrastructure of the Palestinian people

As regards the mass destruction weapons, the GCC States have reiterated the importance of making the Middle East, including the Arab Gulf, free of mass destruction weapons and called all countries, including Israel, which possesses the biggest destructive nuclear stock in the region, to sign and ratify the relevant agreements and conventions and subject their nuclear installations to international surveillance.

CHAPTER (2)

MILITARY COOPERATION

Beginnings and objectives

Military cooperation has been a major concern of Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC States, since the very beginning of the GCC; that is because of their firm conviction in the common objective, determination and aspirations, in addition to the geographic facts and common history.

The Chiefs of General Staff held their first meeting in Riyadh on 23 Dhul Qa'dah 1401 H. (21 September 1981) at the request of the Ministerial Council and made several recommendations relating to the enhancement of military cooperation among Member States.

At its 2nd Session held in Riyadh on 14 Muharram 1402 H. (10 November 1981) the Supreme Council reviewed the recommendations of the Chiefs of General Staff and instructed the Defense Ministers to hold a meeting to discuss those recommendations.

In the light of the above, the Defense Ministers held their first meeting in Riyadh on 25 January 1982 and approved the recommendations of the Chiefs of General Staff.

Based on the resolutions adopted in this connection, military cooperation has continued to proceed upward according to specialized studies that took into account the potentials of the GCC States, the defense requirements and developing feasible work mechanisms based on the results of the lessons derived from the events at the regional and international levels, in addition, to the follow up and analysis of developments and military events in the region.

Achievements

Over the years, the GCC States have been able to attain the following achievements in the military cooperation:

I. Al-Jazeera Shield Joint Forces

The decision to form Al-Jazeera Shield Force was one of the oldest decisions in the field of military cooperation. The decision was issued on 23 Dhul-Hijjah 1402 H. (10 October 1982) then followed other decisions for the development of that force to become a mechanized infantry with full fire and fighting logistics. Studies for the development and modernization of this Force have continued and the Force has been renamed as "Al-Jazeera Shield Joint Forces".

II. The GCC Joint Defense Agreement

The GCC joint action in the military cooperation field achieved a quality shift represented in the GCC Joint Defense Agreement that was signed by Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC States at the 21st Session of the Supreme Council (Manama, December 2000). The agreement sets out several pillars, principles and priorities of military cooperation.

The contracting parties confirm their adherence to the GCC Charter and their respect of the Arab League Charter and the UN Charter. They also confirm their intention to defend each other collectively based on the concept that an attack on any member State means an attack against all of them, and that any danger threatening any of them means a threat to all of them. The agreement further provides for the intention of the Member States to enhance military cooperation among them, raise their individual and collective capacities in order to achieve the highest level of coordination of the joint defense concept. The agreement also provides for the continued development of the Al-Jazeera Shield Force, the ongoing conducting of the joint exercises and attaching importance to the development of a foundation for military industry and encouraging the private sector to invest in this field.

III. Safe Communications

The issue of setting up and providing safe communication among the armed forces of the GCC States has been given a special attention that has led to the installation of a cable for military communications, interconnecting the armed forces of Member States.

IV. Interconnection of the Operations Centers of the Air Forces and the Air Defense

With a view to enhancing the joint air defense, the Operations Centers of the Air Forces and the Air Defense at the GCC States are connected by radar coverage network and prior alarm system through the Cooperation Belt Project whose first phase was operated by the end of 2001.

V. Joint Land/Air/Sea Exercises

Given the importance of joint planning and the performance of joint military exercises, it was agreed that marine joint exercises and other air exercises for the fighters and helicopters be conducted on a permanent basis.

VI. Other Areas of Military Cooperation

Military cooperation has covered several other areas that aim at enhancing cooperation in the field of support and information exchange, unification of the curricula and publications of the various military courses, mutual benefit from the potentials available at the GCC States, particularly in the area of maintenance and training.

CHAPTER (3)

SECURITY COOPERATION

Inception and objectives of the security cooperation

Recognizing that the economic development and prosperity of the GCC States can only be achieved within a safe and stable environment, and inspired by the firm belief that the security of the GCC States is an integral entity, Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC States, have instructed Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers of the GCC States to make their contacts and coordination for holding a meeting wherein to discuss and examine the mechanisms and requirements of the security cooperation among Member States.

To that effect, a working group, composed of security experts at the Interior Ministries, was formed. The experts have prepared a draft agenda for the first meeting of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers. The said meeting was held in Riyadh on 29th Rabi'l and 1st Jumada'l 1402 H. (23-24 February 1982). This meeting was the beginning of the security coordination and cooperation among the GCC States; several security committees specialized in the various fields of security coordination and cooperation were subsequently formed.

The first meeting outlined the principles and objectives of the security cooperation among the GCC States and the need for a comprehensive security agreement to be signed by the Member States.

The declaration of the meeting stressed the unity and interconnection of the security of the GCC States and the collective security principle by stating that " The GCC security is an integral whole, and any attack on any Member State means an attack on all other states, and the responsibility for confronting an attack on any Member State is a collective one ". The

declaration added "The interference by any entity whatsoever in the internal affairs of any Member State means an interference in the internal affairs of all Member States".

Meetings of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers were periodically (annually) held and were preceded by meetings of the specialized security committees. A committee composed of Their Excellencies the Deputy Interior Ministers prepares for the meetings of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers. Exceptional meetings were held during the intervals between the meetings of the Interior Ministers for discussion of security matters that required coordination and consultation. The Interior Ministers have also agreed that a one-day consultative meetings without specified agenda shall be held by the mid of their periodic annual meetings.

Achievements

The field of security coordination and cooperation has witnessed advanced steps and achievements covering various security areas, in general, and all that affects the life of the GCC citizens, in particular, and meets the requirements of other economic, social and youth aspects of the joint action.

The achievements and steps that have been attained in the field of security cooperation reflect the general objectives of cooperation in this field, that is the improvement and enhancement of security coordination and cooperation among the GCC States leading to the integration of their security bodies.

I. The Security Agreement

The GCC Security Agreement incorporates legal Articles that address the issues of security cooperation among the GCC States. The agreement is binding on the parties that have signed and ratified it according to the provisions of its articles. Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers of UAE, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Sultanate of Oman signed the agreement at their 13th meeting in Riyadh.

At its 15th session (Bahrain, December 1994) the Supreme Council blessed that step purging other Member States to sign the agreement at the earliest possible time.

II. The GCC Comprehensive Security Strategy

The Comprehensive Security Strategy of the GCC States was adopted in the second exceptional meeting of the Interior Ministers held in Muscat on 15 February 1987, and was approved by the Supreme Council at its 8th session in Riyadh. The strategy is a general framework for comprehensive security cooperation among Member States. The strategy outlines the general objectives, as well as the tools of implementation thereof.

To enhance coordination and cooperation in the security field, to update the common security mechanisms and precautions applicable at Member States and to cope with the increasingly growing trans-national crime, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers, at their 8th Consulting Meeting (Riyadh, May 2007), have instructed that the GCC Comprehensive Security Strategy be reviewed by a competent committee with a view to updating it. Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers, at their 9th Consulting Meeting (Doha, May 2008) have approved a draft proposal for updating and developing the 9th comprehensive security strategy that would be submitted to the Supreme Council for approval. The Supreme Council (29th Session, Muscat, Dec. 2008, Muscat) approved updating and developing the GCC Comprehensive Security Strategy.

III. Facilitating the Movement and Flow of Goods

Facilitation of the Intra-GCC movement of citizens and the flow of goods has been given special attention since the first meeting of Their Highnesses and Excellencies the GCC Interior Ministers, as this subject has a direct impact on the interests of citizens, fostering the social interconnection among them and

supporting the Intra-GCC trade. It is also one of the basic prerequisite for the Common GCC Market. The Member States have taken several resolutions in this vital field, such as:

- Agreement on Intra-GCC movement of GCC citizens using I.D.
- The agreement on the issuance of the electronically readable passports of the GCC citizens.
- Raising the efficiency of the staff working at the borders to ensure a high level of treatment and qualification through continued training, along with providing the necessary services at the borders in order to create appropriate conditions for good performance and treatment.
- Urging the authorities in charge of the borders among Member States to provide and develop the technical and technological systems that would accelerate finalization of procedures.
- According special treatment to the GCC nationals through giving them priority of finalization of entry and exit procedures.
- Increasing the number of passenger vehicle lanes at arrival and departure to accommodate greater number of the transportation modes at one time, which would facilitate the flow of entry and exit.
- Granting the national truck drivers carrying goods from any GCC States the required entry visas at the borders without the stipulation of having a sponsor or local agent for the exporting factory, establishment or company at the country of destination.
- Cancellation of the stamping of the passports of the GCC nationals at departure.
- Granting the dependants of the GCC citizens entry visas at the borders after ensuring the validity of their passports or residence permits.
- Granting entry visas for visit purposes to the foreign wives arriving with their husbands from the GCC States provided they should have valid residence permits in the countries of residence.
- Limited electronic interconnection of the information relating to the movement of the GCC citizens across the ports.
- Specifying special lanes for the GCC citizens provided with signs at all ports, and stressing the importance of adherence to the actual implementation of this resolution.

- Making sudden visits by the high officials of the Passport and Customs Departments and to certain ports to identify the performance and the requirements for improving performance.
- Putting questionnaires at all ports for the transiting passengers to write down their comments and assessment of performance and treatment at the ports. Completed questionnaires shall be kept in safe boxes for analysis from time to another as a part of the follow-up and monitoring process.
- Giving material and moral incentives to the personnel at the ports, particularly those member States that do not have such incentives.
- Intensifying the field visits among the personnel at the GCC ports in order to familiarize themselves with the procedures and facilities applied by each Member State at the ports. Such visits serve as a part of the exchange of experience and expertise, and can be organized through a timeschedule to be agreed on.
- Due to the importance of following up the implementation of these recommendations, the Immigration & passports Department at each Member State shall submit periodic reports on the implementation of these recommendations and the performance level at the relevant ports to the Deputy Minister of Interior, who in turn will provide the Secretariat General with a comprehensive report to be examined at the meetings of the preparatory committee for identification of difficulties , exchange of opinions and benefiting from that experience to facilitate implementation of those recommendations
- Procedures for the intra-GCC movement of citizens using the identity card and the multi-purpose smart card are currently being completed.
- The GCC Member States are examining the issuance of a common tourist visa among them. A technical ad hoc committee has been formed to examine the various aspects of this topic.

IV. Counter-terrorism cooperation

Inspired by their primary conviction in the need to combat the terrorism phenomenon through regional and international efforts, the GCC States adopted in 2002 a security strategy for combating terrorism-related radicalism. In the same year, they issued the Muscat Declaration on fighting terrorism. The GCC States also signed the GCC Counter-Terrorism Agreement in

2004. Moreover, in 2006 a Permanent Anti-Terrorism Committee was formed. The Committee would hold periodic (annual) meetings as one of the specialized security committees. In the field of enhancement of cooperation and efforts among Member States, given the migration of citizens at the times of wars or natural disasters, Their Highnesses and Excellencies GCC Interior Ministers approved, in 2008 the joint plan to confront the cases of emergency migration.

V. Cooperation in the field of civil defense

Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers in their 12th Meeting, held in 22-23 November 1993 approved two draft laws: "The Unified Civil Defense Law" and "The Unified Law for Volunteering and Volunteers", which would serve as reference laws, the latter deals with the conditions, duties and rights of civil service volunteers on the occurrence of emergencies or disasters. To enhance cooperation in this respect, an emergency plan for conducting joint simulated exercises was adopted, an awareness committee in the field of civil defense was also formed, in addition to another committee concerned with designing joint training exercises and a third committee for unification of the safety requirements and precaution.

Moreover, permanent items were listed on the agenda of the meetings of the Directors-General of Civil Defense that deal with organizing joint training courses and unification of standards of safety and precaution.

VI. Cooperation against nuclear and radioactive risks

In the field of protecting the GCC countries and citizens against the risks of the nuclear and radioactive crises, the GCC States have reached the following:

- Identifying the requirements of the GCC Common Reference Plan for facing nuclear radioactive disasters and nuclear.
- Interlinking Special Operation Rooms in GCC States dealing with emergencies of radioactive and nuclear risks.

- Unification of the practices of dealing with radio active and nuclear risks in member States.
- Training of staff to counter radioactive and nuclear risks.

VII. Cooperation in the field of drug control

The Standard Model Legislation on Drug Control and Hallucinants was approved in 1998, so that governments can benefit from it when updating their legislation. The Model legislation contains articles providing for stern penalties on drug smugglers and dealers. In 2005, a decision on the continued application of the legislation for the next five years was taken. In addition, a joint training plan for the drug control officers was adopted. Also, the team authorized to prepare a study on the measures for reducing demand for drugs and hallucinants finalized the study which is in the phase of final revision. In the context of enhancing cooperation among Member States in the field of the control of narcotics, hallucinants and chemical precursors and the other relevant forms of organized crime, the Supreme Council (Muscat, Dec. 2008) approved the Statute of the GCC Criminal Crime Center for Drug Control.

VIII. Cooperation in the field of investigations and criminal detection

The GCC States have adopted the following in the field of investigations and criminal detection:

- Adopting the final form of the GCC Common Reference Law on Criminals, Suspects and Fugitives.
- Training in the field of surveillance, investigation and control of the economic crimes and the need for coordination between GCC banking institutions and monetary agencies and the Ministry of Interior in each Member State.
- In 2006, the Uniform Reference Law for the Prevention of Crimes and Suspect Control was adopted and implemented for three years.
- There is a study for developing a security database that maintains Intra-GCC electronic connection in the field of Investigations and Criminal Detection.

- Efforts are underway to enable the GCC to use the INTERPOL (I 24-7) system among Member States only.
- Studying the idea of establishing a criminal police agency that would undertake coordination and security cooperation among Member States in the field of pursuit of criminals and delivery of wanted individuals.
- Seeking to develop and stipulate best standards for the protection of vehicles and minimizing thefts thereof, including the installation of a "chip" that would help locate the vehicle.
- Studying the draft GCC Uniform Vehicle Registration Form.
- A reference GCC Law on E-Crime Control is currently being prepared.

VIII. Cooperation in the field of Traffic

1. The GCC Common Traffic Law

The Common Traffic Law of the GCC States deals with the various traffic issues and affairs. At their 8th meeting, held at Riyadh on 31 October 1989, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Interior Ministers of the GCC States have adopted The GCC Common Traffic Law as a reference law, to be re-evaluated after three years, provided the GCC States, which implement the law for reference purposes, shall notify the Secretariat accordingly. During that period, it was found out that the GCC States have made use of that law for the issuance or amendment of their traffic laws.

2. The GCC Traffic Week

At their 3rd meeting (Riyadh, November 1983), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have approved organizing the "GCC Traffic Week" with participation of all competent Public and private departments and institutions. The "Week" aims at the traffic awareness of all categories of society that would contribute to reducing the number of traffic accidents in the GCC States.

3. Facilitation of Intra-GCC movement of GCC citizens

At their 3rd meeting (Riyadh, November 1983), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have adopted the following Resolution:

- a) Allowing the GCC citizens to use the driving licenses issued by their States in any of the GCC Member States, and to replace the expired driving licenses with other driving licenses issued by the State where they are residents.
- b) Authorizing the Intra-GCC movement of private cars and those rented from the Car Rent Companies in the GCC States, and used by GCC nationals
- c) Authorizing the Intra-GCC movement of trucks according to the provisions of the Economic Agreement
- d) Allowing the Intra-GCC movement of the taxies used by GCC nationals from points to be agreed on, provided that such taxies shall not be used for transporting passengers in the State of destination.
- e) That resolution came into effect on 28 Rabiea Awal 1404 H. (January 1st 1984)

4. Car registration plates and damaged vehicles

At their third meeting (Riyadh, October 1986), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have adopted the following Resolution:

- a) Emphasizing facilitation of Intra-GCC movement of the private cars owned by the GCC nationals using their valid registration plates and traffic license.
- b) When a GCC national wants to drop the registration plates of his car in any of the GCC States, the competent authority shall dispatch the plates with the ownership documents to the issuing authority in any of the GCC States. Similarly, in the case of damaged cars, the competent authority shall return the plates with the ownership documents to the issuing authority.

In addition, at their sixth meeting (Abu Dhabi, October 1987), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have adopted the following Resolution:

- a) Where a car is damaged in any of the GCC States, the owner, or his representative, can sell the damaged car and request from the competent authority to exempt it from customs duties, provided the plates shall be returned by the Traffic Department to the issuing authority.
- b) In the event the original plates are lost in any of the GCC States, temporary plates valid for one week will be issued in addition to a certificate proving the loss of the original plates. Such temporary plates are to be returned by the Traffic Department to the issuing authority at the country of registration.

5. Driving Licenses

- At their third meeting (Riyadh, November 1983), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers resolved that the applicant for driving license shall be fully familiar with all kinds of traffic signs and symbols.
- At their sixth meeting (Abu Dhabi, October 1987), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have approved the unified data to be included in the driving license application form.
- At their 12th meeting (Abu Dhabi, November 1399), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have issued a resolution on the standard legal age of the driving license applicants, stipulating that the legal age of the applicant of a private driving license shall be 18, and 21 for the applicant of a public driving license.

6. Handicapped-driving license

At their 8th meeting (Riyadh, 1989), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers approved the issuance of the handicapped-driving license, taking into account the following:

- a) The car of the handicapped shall be technical inspected for appropriate specifications that would enable the handicapped to drive it easily and safely.
- b) Fixing a distinguishing mark (according to the internationally approved standards) at the rear of vehicle to distinguish it from other cars.
- c) A special symbol shall be typed on the handicapped's driving-license, indicating the nature of handicap.
- d) Handicapped applicants shall pass the relevant medical examination.

7. Ownership Transfer of vehicles belonging to GCC nationals:

At their 8th meeting (Riyadh, October 1989), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers resolved as follows:

- a) Registration of any vehicle may not be cancelled in any Member State without presentation of the original ownership document, clearance certificate and plates
- b) The list of the cancelled vehicles shall include plate's number and full description of the vehicle conforming to the ownership certificate/carnet.
- c) Standardization of the clearance/discharge certificates applicable in the GCC States according to the attached form

8. Right Hand-Steering Vehicles:

At their 20th meeting (Bahrain, October 2001), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers decided that modified right hand-steering vehicles may not be registered and licensed in the GCC States, and that concerned bodies shall be notified accordingly.

9. Common Traffic Law:

At their 13th meeting (Riyadh, November 1994), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers resolved as follows:

- GCC Common Traffic Law shall continue to be implemented as a reference law
- The subject of traffic safety shall be included in school curricula.

10. GCC Strategy for Traffic Awareness:

At their 16th meeting (Qatar, November 1997), Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers approved the GCC Strategy for Traffic Awareness to be used as a reference strategy for developing the plans and programs of traffic awareness.

The first GCC Youth Conference for Protection against Road Accidents was organized on 29 April 2008. Recommendations of the conference were all adopted.

The GCC Technical Regulations No. GSO 1798:2007 "Motorcycles – General Safety Requirements" was approved by the GSO Board of Directors at its 6th meeting (5 July 2007).

The GCC standards GSO ECE 41-1 "Motorcycles – Noise Pollution" and GSO ECE 42-2 "Motorcycles – Methods of Testing Noise Pollution" were approved by the GSO Board of Directors on 5 June 2007.

The Board of Directors also stipulated to include the chassis No., date of make, weight, country of manufacturing and brand name for the trailers and equipment manufactured in the GCC States when issuing certificate of origin or exportation. It was further resolved not to license salvage vehicles imported for licensing.

IX. Cooperation in the field of Frontier Guards and Coast Guards

In the field of frontier guards and coast guards, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have adopted several resolutions, the most important of which are the following:

- The training plan developed by the General Directorate of Frontier Guards in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for training the frontier guards and coast guards of the GCC States.
- Uniform forms for exchange of information among the frontier guards and coast guards authorities in the GCC States.
- The uniform rules and procedures, prepared by the Secretariat, for addressing infringement of the GCC territorial waters by the fishing and picnic boats belonging to GCC nationals.
- The uniform controls for inspection and surveillance of the wooden vessels in the GCC States.
- Seeking assistance of the maritime Search and Rescue Plan as the basis for the procedures that ensure coordination and cooperation among Member States in the support operations and the assistance in the cases of maritime Search and Rescue
- The Foreign Ministry at the State of Kuwait has prepared a study on the phenomenon of sneaking and how to address it
- Joint bilateral marine exercises were conducted between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, UAE and Oman

X. Cooperation in the field of Penal and Corrective Institutions

As regards the Penal and Corrective Institutions, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Interior Ministers have adopted several resolutions, the most important of which are the following:

- Adoption of the Uniform Model Law for Penal and Corrective Institutions, as a reference law
- The legislative difficulties related to rehabilitation
- Imprisonment alternatives
- After-release care of prisoners
- Adoption of the "Agreement on the Intra-GCC Transfer of Convicts" in view of the humanitarian aspects of that agreement
- Adoption of the Common Rules of Rehabilitation to be implemented as reference rules for three years

XI. Education and Technical Training

Desiring to develop plans and programs and enhance coordination and security cooperation, and recognizing the importance of preparing and training the security officers and organizing training courses, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, Ministers of Interior, adopted certain resolutions in this regard. Those resolutions were derived from the meetings of the Directors General of the security and police colleges, academies and institutions in the GCC States.

In this connection, the Educational and Military Guides were approved to serve as reference for the education and training institutions in Member States. In addition, collective visits of the officers and students among such institutions are organized every year. Also, the first collective field visit of the officers and students at King Fahad Security College was made. The officials of the security libraries were also allowed to exchange information for benefit and enriching the security thinking.

XII. The GCC Award of Security Research

Recognizing the importance of research in security with studies that address the security phenomena that have recently developed in dimensions, forms and images that are not familiar in our GCC communities in particular, and at the regional and international levels in general, and pursuant to the GCC objectives and the provisions of Article (4) of the GCC Charter that supports the scientific research, and in appreciation of the efforts of researchers and specialists in the security areas, particularly the GCC nationals, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Ministers of Interior (16th Meeting, Doha, 1997) endorsed the law of the GCC Award of Security Research. The Award was launched in 2000. A sum of sixty thousand Saudi Riyals was primarily devoted to the Award. However, the increased participation of the GCC researchers urged Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Ministers of Interior to raise the amount of the Award to two hundred thousand Saudi Riyals.

Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Ministers of Interior (27th Meeting, Doha, 6 Nov. 2008) also approved the new statute rules of the Award and the respective rules of procedure, and increased the Award amount to SR 400,000.00 (Four hundred thousand Saudi Riyals) .

XIV. Security Media

Given that there are several technical committees concerned with security awareness matters, and desiring to unify efforts in this field, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the GCC Ministers of Interior (27th Meeting, Doha, 6 Nov. 2008) decided to set up a general committee, to be known as " Security Media Committee", to which awareness and information matters in all security fields shall be referred.

Chapter (4)

Media Cooperation

I. Preliminary Phases of Media Cooperation

Media cooperation among the GCC States began prior to the founding of the GCC through the periodic meetings of the GCC Ministers of Information, i.e. Ministers of Information of the current GCC States , and Iraq. Such meetings led to the establishment of eight joint media institutions: The Joint TV/Radio Program Production Organization, the Gulf TV, The GCC News Agency, Popular Heritage Center, Radio and TV Training Coordination Center, Media Documentation Center, Coordination and Planning Committee for Petroleum Information, International Media Relations Committee (the latter two committees were cancelled by resolution of the GCC Ministers of Information in their 12th meeting in April 1988. The Training Coordinating Center was suspended because the GCC Ministers of Information have not approved its bylaw.

In 1990, the number of joint media institutions was abridged to five: The Joint TV/Radio Program Production Organization, the Gulf TV, The GCC News Agency, Popular Heritage Center and the Media Documentation Center. After the aggression against the State of Kuwait, the membership of Iraq in the GCC institutions was discontinued. The GCC States denounced the Documentation Center, the Gulf News Agency changed into Bahrain News Agency and the two remaining institutions, i.e. the Joint TV/Radio Program Production Organization and the Gulf TV, have been directly reporting to the GCC. According to a Supreme Council resolution in the 29th session (Muscat, 2008) the Republic of Yemen joined the Gulf T.V and Radio.

II. Objectives of Media Cooperation

The objective of the joint media action among the GCC States is the unification of the media policies of the GCC States and the adoption of a

uniform formula that takes into account the basic objectives of the GCC in the fields of radio broadcasting, TV, press, news agencies, publications and foreign media. The joint media action also aims at fostering coordination and interconnection among the media agencies to enable them of achieving their objectives and responsibilities to the GCC nationals and States, and to exploit their efforts and production for the common good.

The joint media action also aims at strengthening the belief in the GCC's role among citizens through providing them with fast and accurate information about the joint action process and achieving nationalization in the field of media, either through providing equal employment opportunities for the GCC citizens or the commercial media activity, which is understood to be an economic activity.

Codification of the media laws and regulations is one of the important objectives that the GCC States are striving to achieve. For example, a comparative survey conducted by the Secretariat in the eighties on the laws of Printed Matters and Publications demonstrated minor divergences among the laws of the GCC States. The adoption of Printed Matters and Publications Law by the Kuwaiti parliament in the first week of March 2006 is a substantial improvement of those laws.

The media cooperation seeks to unify the media policies of the GCC States through identifying the points of similarity and convergence among the existing media policies in the GCC States, with a view to reaching a common conception or uniform formula that takes into account the basic objectives of the GCC. However, such aspiration is currently challenged by the tendency towards privatization of the official media agencies' cancellation of Ministries of Information in some GCC States and transforming the information media into independent institutions in most of the GCC States. Such trend will focus on coordination of positions, intensifying the external media presence as a single group that aims at a similar media objective and promotion of the joint media projects through the private sector in the GCC States.

III. Achievements

Achievements of the GCC are characterized by two features: A transitional (phased) one that is abandoned due to the rapid development of media and communication at the regional and international levels, and a continuous one which is particularly manifested in the honorary framing of the relationship among the media of the GCC States. In this connection, one would notice that the media cooperation, since its very beginning, has played an obvious role in this field; a role that led to the Media Honorary Chart that was adopted by the Supreme Council at its 7th Session (Abu Dhabi 1986). The Chart was further updated at the 19th session of the Supreme Council (Abu Dhabi 1998) to cope with the technological media developments.

The following is a summary of some achievements that are still influencing the information area in the GCC States:

Radio Cooperation

The "GCC Voice" started broadcasting by the mid eighties from the GCC broadcasting agencies as Radio broadcasting at independent waves, and then it has been changed into "Gulf Voice" broadcasting during the meetings of the Supreme Council from the host country.

In the field of production, Radios of the GCC States have produced and broadcasted joint radio programs based on the resolutions of the Ministers of Information at the GCC States. Examples of such programs are the "Gulf Papers", a program that addresses various topics and areas and an awareness program that was called "Illumination", in addition to expanding the Gulf TV & Radio Production Festival to include the Radio broadcasting in the GCC States and adopt its bylaw.

One of the positive steps that were early taken in the field of media cooperation among Member States was the exchange of visits among the radio announcers and engineers at the Radios of the GCC States, in addition

to the exchange of radio programs and the enhancement of cooperation in the engineering field of the GCC radios.

News Agencies

News Agencies are the main source of news through which the GCC can achieve the objective of strengthening its concept in the media agencies of the GCC States and the public opinion and promote the GCC principles among individuals and enterprises. Therefore, cooperation in the field of GCC news and news reports has been intensified. For more than ten years, News Agencies have been transmitting periodic reports under the name of "Cooperation File". Cooperation in the field of News Agencies is also characterized by its considerable activity in the field of press and media training through the collective participation of the GCC News Agencies in the training courses organized by the Kuwaiti News Agency.

Similarly, News Agencies exchange visits among editors and technicians at the GCC News Agencies and enhance technical and technological cooperation.

TV Cooperation

TV cooperation is one of the areas of the existing joint media institutions, such as the Joint TV/Radio Program Production Organization and the Gulf TV. The Secretariat is implementing plans for the exchange of programs and announcers among the GCC Televisions, production of guidance and awareness programs by the Joint TV/Radio Program Production Organization and participation in the Gulf TV & Radio Production Festival.

Press Cooperation

Press cooperation is one of the important aspects of the media cooperation. The press agencies in the GCC States have their own existing programs in the field of press cooperation through the annual meeting of the editors-in-

chief and directors of the press agencies. Moreover, a GCC Press Union has been recently established.

External Media

There have been two phases of cooperation in the field of external media: The first phase began with the adoption, at the 7th Summit (1986) of the Supreme Council, of the External Media Controls Document. The document was updated at the 19th Session (1998) of the Supreme Council. This document governs the relationship with the foreign media. The second phase began in 1995 through the collective positive efforts elucidating the image of the GCC abroad. Those efforts have brought forth several programs and projects that were implemented, such as:

- Preparation and distribution of monthly reports in English, French, Spanish and German that were addressed to the leaders of public opinion and decision-makers in the field of politics, economy, education and information in the UK, France, Spain and Germany. That joint effort has been continued for two years during the period that followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
- Printing books in Russian, Indonesian and Urdu and distributing them in the countries speaking those languages
- Producing a TV program entitled "Good Evening Arabs" and broadcasting it through the GCC satellite channels
- Organizing a Media Week at Tunisia in October 1998
- The effective participation in "Assilah Forum" 2003, where the GCC was the core discussion of the forum
- Organizing "Days of the GCC" in some European capitals: Paris (April 2004), Brussels (March 2005), Berlin (November 2006), Netherlands (2007) and Madrid (2008). The "Days of the GCC" will be organized this year in Rome (2009).
- Inviting press delegations from various EU countries to visit the GCC States, and publishing press articles and investigations about the Member States in the European newspapers

■ The media campaign on the GCC Common Market: The Media Cooperation and Publication Department at the GCC Secretariat has launched a media campaign on the GCC Common Market. Implementation of the campaign entails three tracks:

1. Media of Member States
2. Media of the General-Secretariat
3. Economic institutions of Member States

Within the framework of track (1), the first seminar on market was organized on 18-19 March 2008. The seminar was inaugurated by HE the Secretary General with participation of speakers from the Secretariat, the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, The Executive Office of the Ministers of Labor, The Executive Office of the Council of the Ministers of Health and over thirty participants from the GCC Radios and News Agencies. The seminar objective was to provide orientation on the GCC Common Market and the privileges of the GCC nationality so that participants can clearly transfer the same to their citizens in Member States. The seminar will be organized in March every year.

IV. Future of the Joint Media Action

The officials in charge of the media cooperation among the GCC States are seeking to develop the media cooperation process, shift from and the traditional view of media and adopt strategic projects that would serve the joint process of the GCC in general and the joint media in particular. Such projects are in line with the recommendations of the Consultative Commission that were approved at Doha Summit. The GCC Ministers of Information have been instructed to develop an implementing mechanism that includes, among others, the following:

I. Activation of the Domestic Media among the GCC States through:

a) Supporting the Joint Program Production

The intensive cooperation in the field of the joint TV & Radio Production is a vital one, because it represents a strategic dimension in the media

relations among the GCC States, and it achieved distinguished production of programs such as "Your safety", "Open Sesame" and the awareness programs with shared costs among the GCC States.

b) Expanding the area of technical and technological cooperation

Technical and technological cooperation among the government and non-government media is one of the vital areas where the Secretariat has undertaken to make proposals for establishing a technical foundation compatible with the Radio and TV agencies, particularly in the field of studios and equipment thereof, and in the technical fields relating to the News Agencies in the GCC States. Since cooperation and coordination will reflect on the development of the national element and develop cooperation in several areas relating to technical cooperation and cooperation in the field of the informative output of these agencies.

c) Establishing a Media Studies and Information Center

The role of prospective studies' centers is becoming more important day by day. Such centers require live databases so that countries can positively deal with the crises and build up their strategies and plans on a scientific basis away from individual initiatives. Therefore, the GCC States have suggested either to establish a center specialized in the media studies in the GCC States, or to benefit from centers already existing after having them developed in order to become more specialized in the areas of domestic media to be electronically connected to the media agencies in the GCC States and their counterparts at the regional and international levels.

d) Labor Force Development Center

Pursuant to the Supreme Council's resolutions concerning nationalization of jobs in the GCC States, and due to the specific nature of the media professions that require continuous training to cope with the technological

and media developments, the GCC States are currently considering means for implementation of this subject; either through establishing a common training center or through establishing a center for coordination of training across the GCC States.

II. Integration between the Media and Higher Education in the GCC States

The GCC States are endeavoring to achieve integration among the Media and Higher Education through opening channels for cooperation among the Ministries of Information, the Colleges and Media Departments at the GCC States in order to benefit from the education outputs in developing the plans and programs of the Ministries of Information.

III. Intensifying the external media through Private Committees and through the Effective Media outside the GCC States

Western communities, in particular, are characterized by their influence and response to the non-governmental media messages more than the government media messages. They are also influenced by their domestic media releases more than the foreign media releases. Hence, the GCC States are endeavoring to establish friendship societies in some countries and implement, through them, the external information programs.



SECTION TWO

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Trade and Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, Energy, Industry, Patents, Electricity and Water, Transportation and Communications, Telecommunications, Agriculture and Water, Planning, Statistics and Development

Chapter (1)

Joint Action Process

Process and Objectives

The GCC Charter, the Economic Agreement and the resolutions of the Supreme Council represent the basic reference of the joint economic activity. The integration and coherence among the GCC States in the economic field represent one of the basic objectives set forth in the GCC Chart. Article (4) of the Chart identifies the main objectives of the GCC as follows:

1. Achieving coordination, integration and coherence among the GCC States in all areas with a view to reaching their unity
2. Deepening and strengthening the ties, links and the fields of cooperation already existing among their peoples in the various areas
3. Developing uniform laws (regulations) in the various fields, including the following:
 - a. Economic and financial affairs
 - b. Trade affairs, customs and communications
 - c. Educational and cultural affairs
 - d. Social and health affairs
 - e. Information and tourism affairs
 - f. Legislative and administrative affairs
4. Pushing ahead the wheel of the scientific and technological advancement in the fields of industry, mining, agriculture and water and animal resources, and establishing research centers and joint ventures, and encouraging the private sector cooperation that would bring about the good of their peoples.

The Unified Economic Agreement (1981)

To achieve the objectives of the joint economic action in the economic area, the Supreme Council adopted the Common Economic Agreement at its 2nd Session (November 1981). The Agreement draws the plan for the joint economic action and the phases of the economic integration and cooperation among the GCC States. The said Agreement constitutes the core of the integration programs that have been developed in detail over the first twenty years following the establishment of the GCC, which includes, in particular:

1. Achieving Economic nationality among the GCC citizens
2. Achieving the economic integration among Member States in gradual steps, beginning with the establishment of the Free Trade Area, the Customs Union, the Common Market and ending with the establishment of the Monetary and Economic Union and the necessary common institutions
3. Convergence and unification of laws, regulations and strategies in the economic, financial and trade areas
4. Interconnecting the infrastructures in Member States, particularly in areas of communications, electricity and gas and promoting the establishment of joint ventures,

The Economic Agreement (2001)

Coping with the developments of the joint action over the first two decades since the establishment of the GCC and with the international developments and challenges in the economic field, the Supreme Council adopted the Economic Agreement at its 22nd Session (December 2001). The new Agreement has shifted the Joint Action approach from the stage of coordination to the stage of integration according to specific mechanisms and schemes. The Agreement has become more comprehensive in addressing the following topics:

1. The GCC Customs Union
2. The international economic relations between Member States and the other countries, economic groupings and international and regional organizations, and the provision of international and regional aids
3. The GCC Common Market which specifies the areas of the Economic nationality
4. The Monetary and Economic Union
5. Improving the investment climate in Member States
6. The development integration across Member States, including the industrial development, development of oil and gas and the natural resources, agricultural development, environment preservation and joint projects
7. Development of human resources, including education, eradication of illiteracy, compulsion of basic education, activation of the population strategy, nationalizing and training of Labor Force and increasing their contribution to the labor market.
8. Scientific and technical research, development of scientific, technological and informatics database and protection of intellectual property rights
9. Integration in the infrastructure areas, including transportation, telecommunications and E-commerce

In addition, the Agreement contains (Chapter 8) mechanisms for implementation, follow-ups and dispute settlement. The Agreement provides for the formation of a judicial commission to adjudicate disputes arising from the implementation of the Agreement and the resolutions for its implementation.

Main Achievements

1. The Supreme Council at the 29th session, (Muscat, December 2008) adopted the Monetary Union Agreement and the Statute of the Monetary Council pursuant to the timeframe approved by the Supreme Council for establishing the Monetary Union and introducing the single currency.
2. Having completed the main prerequisites, the GCC Common Market was declared in December 2007 to be launched as of January 2008.

3. Trade promotion that falls in two stages:
 - a) Establishing a Free Trade Area among Member States as of March 1983. This led to the free movement of national goods across Member States without customs duties and according such goods national treatment according to certain controls.
 - b) Establishing the GCC Customs Union as of January 1st 2003. This Customs Union provides for a common external tariff and the free movement of goods across member States without tariff or non-tariff barriers.
4. Concluding the GCC Economic Agreement (2001) that was ratified by all Member States
5. Adopting general strategies and policies that would serve as the basis of national policies in Member States, such as the instruments issued by the Supreme Council in the planning, population, industry, oil and agriculture areas
6. Unification of laws, regulations and procedures in the economic fields. The Supreme Council has adopted some 40 standard laws, some of which are binding while most of the other laws are for mere reference
7. Establishing the GCC joint institutions with a view to stressing the technical and economic cooperation among Member States and cutting the costs. Some of these institutions are the following:
 - Gulf Investment Organization
 - GCC Standardization Organization
 - Commercial Arbitration Center
 - Patents Office
 - Technical Office for Telecommunications
 - The GCC ATM Network
 - The Electric Interconnection Corporation that has been established as a joint-stock company. The first and second phases of the GCC Electric Interconnection Project have been completed; and the third phase is expected to be completed by 2011.
 - Office of the technical Secretariat for Anti-Dumping

8. Coordination of stands in the international economic arena and the collective negotiation and economic dialogue with other countries and economic groupings, such as the EU, USA, Japan and China
9. Cooperation and coordination in the field of the basic structures such as roads, communications and telecommunications and in the field of joint projects, and the agreement on the implementation of the first phase of the electric interconnection project
10. Cooperation at the various levels and in all economic fields, such as the banking technology, monetary and fiscal matters, statistical surveys, industry and business conferences, forums and studies in the field of oil, gas, petrochemicals and industry.

Chapter (2)

Cooperation in Trade

Objectives

GCC Member States have gone so far in the field of trade cooperation. They have enhanced such cooperation for the benefit of the GCC States and citizens, which would consequently improve investment and trade climate. Under the GCC Common Market that was declared at the 28th Session of the Supreme Council (Doha, December 2008), Member States have adopted the principle of equal treatment accorded to the GCC citizens by 2003 in various fields such as engagement in retail and wholesale trade, stock ownership, formation of joint ventures, encouragement of common investment and elimination of barriers to Intra-GCC trade. In addition, Member States have sought to unify trade laws.

Member States have also endeavored to improve foreign investment climate and the conditions of penetrating into world markets through adoption of uniform standards of GCC products. The GCC has adopted a uniform trade policy vis-à-vis the other world countries, the World Trade organization and the other international and regional organizations as a single economic unity with a view to promoting trade and investment with the other countries of the world, expanding markets of the GCC exports and increasing their competitive capacity. In addition, Member States have also sought to improve the conditions of their exports penetrate world markets and promote and defend GCC products in world markets, protect local markets and making active the role of the private sector in promoting GCC exports of goods and services.

The GCC Common Trade Policy also aims at adopting an internal common trade policy, which facilitates the flow of Intra-GCC movement of citizens, goods, services and modes of transportation; a policy that takes into account environment preservation and consumer protection.

Achievements

There have been several achievements in the field of trade cooperations such as the adoption of several laws and regulations, enhancement of Economic nationality and setting up common commissions. The following are the most important achievements:

- Permitting GCC citizens to engage in retail trade (as of 1st March 1987) and wholesale trade (as of 1st March 1990) in any Member State and according them same national treatment, in implementation of the Resolution of the Supreme Council (7th session, December 1986)
- Permitting the GCC establishments and production plants to open offices for commercial representation in any Member State in implementation of the Resolution of the Supreme Council (12th session, December 1991), and also permitting them to import and export national products from and into any Member State without having a local agent
- Establishing the GCC Commercial Arbitration Center and the bylaws thereof under the Resolution of the Supreme Council (14th session, Riyadh, December 1993). The CAC was officially declared to be based in Bahrain in March 1995. The CAC provides an acceptable mechanism for the commercial dispute settlement. The CAC tries commercial disputes among GCC citizens or non GCC-nationals, being natural or legal persons. In addition, the CAC tries the commercial disputes arising from implementation of economic agreements and the decisions of implementation thereof. The CAC also organizes arbitration symposiums and seminars in all Member States.
- Adopting the Bylaw of the GCC Accounting and Auditing Commission under the Resolution of the Supreme Council (19th session, Abu Dhabi, December 1998). The AAC has started its activities upon finalization of the establishing phase.
- Establishing the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) under the Resolution of the Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha, December 2002). The GSO prepares, approves and publishes GCC standards for goods and products. It also unifies the various standardization activities and

follows up application thereof in cooperation and coordination with the standardization organizations in Member States with to developing their production and services sectors, promoting Intra-GCC trade, protecting consumer, environment and public health and encouraging GCC agricultural products and industry. Thus, the GSO supports GCC economy and helps reduce technical barriers to trade in line with the objectives of the GCC Customs Union and Common Market.

- Full equal treatment between GCC citizens in the field of stock ownership, company corporation and elimination of relevant restrictions by 2003 (Resolution of the Supreme Council, 23rd session, Doha, December 2002)
- Adopting the document of the Common Trade Policy that unifies GCC External Trade Policy (Resolution of the Supreme Council, 26th session, Abu Dhabi, December 2005)
- Adoption of the GCC Trademark Law (Resolution of the Supreme Council, 27th session, Riyadh, December 2006)
- In the meantime, some reference trade laws and regulations are being made binding, in addition to finalization of other new draft laws such as Common Trade law, Unified law of Commercial Agencies, Common Commercial Registration Law, GCC Commercial Fraud Control, GCC Consumer Protection law, GCC Competition Law, GCC Commercial Secrets Law, Unified Law for Supervision and Control of Insurance Activities in GCC Member States, Unified Law for Engagement of Auditing Profession and Common Electronic Transactions law

Chapter (3)

The Customs Union

Objectives

Objectives of the trade cooperation between the GCC States are summed up in the endeavor to eliminate tariff barriers among Member States in respect to their products, exempt such products from customs duties and accord them national treatment, coordinate the exportation and importation policies and create a collective negotiating power in the field of exportation and importation.

To that effect, the GCC States have established a free trade area since 1983. As of January 1st 2003, that free trade area was transformed into a Customs Union which aims, inter alia, at eliminating the tariff and non-tariff barriers among its Member States in order to facilitate intra-GCC flow of goods, and creating a collective negotiating power for the GCC States, whether in their endeavor to liberate trade with the EU or with the other international economic blocs or in the coordination of the exportation and importation policies.

In this connection, the GCC is seeking to develop cooperation among its Members through formulating plans, programs and projects that would achieve the trade policy for the Member States and enhance cooperation with the private sector through the GCC Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation.

Achievements

The volume of Intra-GCC Trade has increased by almost ten times since the establishment of the GCC due to the procedures that Member States have collectively taken for facilitation of the Intra-GCC flow of goods, through the following three main steps:

- Establishing the Free Trade Area (1983-2002)
- Establishing the Customs union (since 2003)
- Unification of legislation and procedures related to trade, imports, exports and customs

I. The Free Trade Area (FTA)

Encouragement of trade is one of the most important objectives of any economic grouping, be it in the form of a free trade area, a customs union or economic union. The increase of trade is a basic objective of establishing any customs union. As the customs union, according to the economic theory, increases trade among its members through eliminating or diminishing trade barriers. The increase of trade is the main influencing mechanism through which the other objectives, such as the customs union, increased specialization, reducing prices, increasing production efficiency and expanding market, can be achieved.

A number of studies indicate that the customs union of any economic grouping leads to increased trade rates; for example, trade between the countries of the EU Customs Union has increased by almost 600% during the first 12 years following its establishment.

Therefore, the GCC States started to make the legal and practical arrangements required for establishing the "GCC Free Trade Area" since the GCC was established in May 1981 by concluding the Economic Agreement that was signed in November 1981. That Agreement contained the main provisions of the GCC Free Trade Area.

The GCC Free Trade Area was mainly featured by exempting the industrial and agricultural goods and the natural resources of the GCC States from customs duties subject to presentation of a certificate of origin issued by the competent government authority in the exporting country, in addition to the following:

- Allowing importation and exportation of national products throughout the GCC States without the requirement of a local agent or taking any other procedures except for the certificate of origin and the export manifest
- In the event duties are levied on any originating goods due to a suspected origin considerations, those duties shall be reimbursed to the importer after ensuring their national origin
- Adopting the immediate release system for finalization of the customs procedures relating to the goods accompanying the passengers at the borders of the Member States
- Preparation of the export declarations of the originating goods at GCC border offices
- Assigning special lanes at the Intra-GCC borders for the GCC nationals with signs bearing the expression "GCC Nationals"

The GCC Free Trade Area came into effect in March 1983, which was mainly featured by exempting the GCC industrial, agricultural and natural resources products from customs duties and other similar duties. The GCC Free Trade Area continued for almost twenty years until the end of 2002 when it was replaced by the GCC Customs Union. Throughout the FTA period (1983-2002), the volume of Intra-GCC trade increased from less than US\$ 6 billion in 1983 to some US\$ 20 billion in 2002.

II. The GCC Customs Union – January 2003

Establishing the Customs Union on January 1st 2003 was a quality shift in the joint economic action as the customs union is basically based on a common external tariff, elimination of trade barriers, uniform import/export procedures and treatment of the geographical territory of the six member States as a single customs territory. Though the creation of the GCC customs union was a little bit late, yet it is deemed as an advanced union in legal terms as Article (1) of the GCC Economic Agreement, signed at Muscat Summit in December 2001, outlines the following three basic principles of the GCC Customs Union:

- a) A Common External Tariff
- b) Unified Customs regulations and procedures (A Common Customs Law has been effective since 2002)
- c) Uniform customs procedures
- d) Single entry point where common duties are levied
- e) Intra-GCC movement of goods without tariff or non-tariff barriers
- f) National treatment of GCC goods

As outlined above, the main objective of the customs union is the liberalization of Intra-GCC trade. Therefore private sector in all GCC States is directly influenced by the establishment of such customs union which allows Intra-GCC flow of goods without tariff or non-tariff barriers. However, Intra-GCC movement of goods is subject to certain GCC laws and resolutions that address issues such as the veterinary and agricultural quarantine and control of the imported foodstuffs.

Impact of the Customs Union on Intra-GCC Trade

The growth rates of Intra-GCC trade is not anticipated, in the short run, to reach the rates achieved by the European Union. A study made by the Secretariat prior to the formation of the customs union estimated that the growth of Intra-GCC trade would be 6-30% during the first four years. Those estimations were based on factual basis and were calculated using peer experiences based on the "GCC Integrational Model" due to the great similarity among the economies of the GCC States, the structural characteristics of these States and the continuous trade-restricting conditions during the transitional period.

In order to identify the actual advantage of the GCC customs union in such a short time, it was necessary to measure the growth rate of Intra-GCC trade after the formation of the GCC Customs Union and compare that growth rate with the historical growth average of the Intra-GCC trade before the formation of Customs Union.

To this effect, detail studies have been conducted. Such studies have analyzed the volume of Intra-GCC trade during the period 1993-2004 in order to be able to compare the volume of Intra-GCC trade before and after the creation of the GCC Customs Union.

It was surprising that those studies have indicated a high growth rate in the Intra-GCC trade after the formation of the Customs Union on the 1st of January 2003. That growth was beyond all expectations because the volume of Intra-GCC trade has increased from US\$ 11.6 billion in 1993 to US\$ 20.3 billion in 2002, i.e. an increase by 75.5% over the past ten years or an average annual growth accounting for some 7.5%.

After the formation of the customs union in January 2003, the volume of Intra-GCC trade has increased by an annual growth average that exceeded 20%.

Transitional Period of the Customs Union (2003-2009)

The transitional period (2003-2009) allows Member States to adapt with some aspects of the Customs Union in the following areas:

- Joint collection of duties and distribution of customs revenues
- Importation of medicaments and pharmaceuticals
- Importation of foodstuff
- Tariff protection for certain GCC industrial products
- Continuation of protection of local agent
- Continuation of some customs functions at the Intra-GCC border offices
- Joint excise of customs revenues.

"The Procedures and Steps for Implementation of the Customs Union" document, outlines the provisions of the transitional period; by the end of which the roles of the intra-GCC border customs posts will be abolished; as such, the GCC will become a single customs zone.

Practical procedures for the establishment of the GCC Customs Union

As of January 1st 2002, Common Customs Law was implemented by all Member States. On January 1st 2003, the GCC Member States achieved an important step by establishing the Customs Union where a common external tariff of 5% was levied on all foreign imports. Such CET was implemented on January 1st 2003. However, a number of essential commodities were exempted from customs duties as well as the customs exemptions provided for in the Common Customs Law and the WTO tariff bindings of some Member States. Duty-free commodities account for some 10% of the imported goods. Customs procedures have been applied to all foreign goods at the first point of entry into any of the Member States. Accordingly, the first point of entry would inspect and examine the foreign goods imported through it, ensure their conformity to the required documentation and that they do not contain any prohibited goods, and consequently levy the applicable duties. Hereafter, goods will move freely within Member States. That required abolishment of the Intra-GCC transit of foreign goods as Member States constitute a single customs territory.

Within the framework of following up the implementation of the requirements of the customs union, a team from the Secretariat and Member States had visited some customs offices at the GCC ports during September 2003 and January 2005 to ensure implementation of the requirements of the customs union. Customs officers from the GCC Customs Administrations were assigned to work at the customs ports of the other GCC Member States during May 2004 with a view to exchanging customs expertise among Member States.

Within the efforts being made for following up implementation of the customs union, the GCC Ministers of Economy and Finance resolved as follows:

- Member States shall provide the Secretariat with copies of the instructions given to the customs administrations and border customs offices

concerning implementation of the requirements of the customs union, and the Secretariat would in turn notify such instructions to the Member States

- The Customs Union Committee shall be instructed to complete the studies related to the Customs Union, along with adopting a time schedule for elimination of all barriers and difficulties delaying the process of the Customs Union
- The Customs Authorities of Member States shall not require national products to meet conditions more than those required from similar foreign products, in respect to the format and type of the evidence of origin
- Increasing the official working hours at the Intra-GCC borders of Member States in order to facilitate the Intra-GCC flow of goods and encourage trade between Member States. Member Customs Administrations have instructed the Intra-GCC customs points to increase their official business hours
- Not to require industrial license for the first consignment of factory products; where the customs are doubtful about the origin of national goods, the applicable duties shall be levied under deposit pending presentation of the origin evidence
- Stressing that national product shall have a single evidence of origin; where two evidences (national or foreign) are labeled to a single product, such goods shall be subject to customs duties
- Full adherence to the resolution of the Supreme Council adopted at its 22nd session (December 2001) and 23rd session (December 2002). That resolution has provided for a common external tariff to be imposed on foreign commodities, and that no Member State may exempt any dutiable commodity unless such exemption is agreed on within the framework of the GCC
- Where a Member State wants to exempt any commodity for prospective contingent reasons, that Member State shall call for an exceptional meeting of the Customs Union Committee to examine the issue and submit appropriate recommendation to the Ministers of Economy and Finance at the GCC States

- Approved a mechanism for the Intra-GCC movement of prohibited or restricted goods.
- Approved the controls on the food products imported across intra-GCC borders
- Approved uniform restrictions, conditions and procedures for the registration and importation of medicaments across Member States.
- Established a Customs Information Center, which will provide important information on the Intra-GCC flow of goods.
- Issued of the second edition of the GCC Common Customs Law, which entails the new mechanisms for determining the value for customs purposes in consistent with the WTO requirements that has been implemented by all member Customs Administrations as of January 2008.
- Issued of the second edition of the Common External Tariff including the commodities that Member States agreed to exempt from customs duties.
- Approved a mechanism for the intra-GCC movement of goods under the final status of the customs union.
- Approved unified procedures for inspection and release of postal consignments imported through land borders of GCC Member States
- Approved a mechanism for calculating the value of second-hand modes of transportation imported into Member States.
- Approved a mechanism for treating foreign goods imported without an evidence of origin.
- Exempting a number of commodities within the WTO tariff bindings of Member States under the Information Technology Agreement (ITA).
- Approved the electronic clearing mechanism within the GCC customs union.

Chapter (4)

Cooperation in the Prevention of Injurious Practices in International Trade

Inspired by the basic GCC objectives and in line with the objectives of the Economic Agreement aiming at achieving economic integration among GCC Member States, the GCC Member States, having acceded to the WTO, have recognized the importance of taking necessary measures to protect GCC industry from the injurious practices in international trade. Such injurious practices included dumping, subsidy and unjustifiable increase in imports that cause or threaten material injury to an established GCC industry or retard the establishment of such industry.

In this connection, the Supreme Council (24th session, Kuwait, December 2003) approved the GCC Common Law of Anti-dumping, Countervailing Measures and Safeguards. This law is of special importance for GCC industry since it protects such industry against the injurious practices in international trade and provides mechanisms that are consistent with the WTO obligations of the GCC Member States.

Moreover, on 11 October 2004, Their Excellencies, the GCC Industry Ministers approved the Rules of Implementation of the Law and, in March 2006, they decided to commence the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping through an office to be set up at the GCC Secretariat-General. To this effect, H.E. the GCC Secretary-General issued a decision on March 6th 2007 establishing an office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping. That decision was due to the increasing injurious practices in international trade and it aimed at unifying the efforts of Member States in this connection and enhancing the negotiating position of member States.

The office of the Technical Secretariat of the Permanent Committee for Prevention of the Injurious Practices in International Trade follows up implementation of the WTO agreements related to anti-dumping, subsidy

and increase of imports and the GCC Common Law on Anti-dumping, Countervailing Measures and Safeguards and the Rules of Implementation thereof. The Office thus ensures that all the rules provided for in said legal instruments are adhered to and respected and that the GCC Member States meet their WTO obligations under the agreements on anti-dumping, subsidy and increase of imports and that the GCC Common Law on the Prevention of Injurious Practices in International Trade is consistent with these agreements.

The Office of the Technical Secretariat also proposes and follows up implementation of the fees and anti-dumping measures and safeguards, subsidy and increase of imports that cause or threaten a material injury to GCC industry.

Achievements

Over the past year and a half, and pursuant to the tasks outlined in the GCC Common Law on the Prevention of Injurious Practices in International Trade and the Rules of Implementation thereof, the office of the Technical Secretariat on Anti-dumping has attained many achievements that would enhance GCC joint action as follows:

1. Following up claims and investigations

In the context of following up the claims and investigations addressed to GCC States, the Office found out that there are 10 anti-dumping protectionist duties that are still imposed, in addition to two protectionist duties against the increase of imports imposed on the exports of some GCC States, which are still imposed, too.

Protectionist duties (whether anti-dumping duties or increase of imports) cover ceramics, white cement, compressed discs, polypropylene rolls, polyester tapes, caustic soda, oxamide, blankets and sensitized paperboard.

2. Receiving complaints

The Office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping started to receive and examine complaints of dumping and increase of imports from GCC industry at member States. The office has received seven claims from various industrial sectors.

Receiving GCC industry claims is deemed an advanced stage of the office's activity and an enhancement of the GCC industry gains that would ensure honest and fair competition with imported products.

3. Receiving complaints

The Office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping, upon request of some Member States, has acted on behalf of such Member States in claims of dumping and increase of imports. The Office examined the legal and pragmatic aspects of investigations and the mechanism of action based on the rules set out in the WTO agreements. These claims covered ceramics, petrochemicals and cement. The Office has also participated in the bilateral meetings held at some member States with those countries imposing protectionist duties against them.

4. Cooperation with the International and regional Organizations

With a view to fostering the ties with the International and regional Organizations, the Office organized in June 2008 a specialist seminar in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank and UNCTAD on anti-dumping, subsidy and safeguards and the settlement of disputes at the WTO.

In addition, the Office hosted in January 2009 a regional workshop for the Arab countries on the mechanisms of the Prevention of Injurious Practices in International Trade, which was organized by the WTO in association with The Office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping.

Chapter (5)

The GCC Common Market and Economic nationality

GCC Economic nationality

“Economic nationality” is the realization of a fully equal treatment among GCC nationals in all economic fields in member States. However, the concept of “nationalization” has undergone several developments in the history of the GCC economic joint action. Article (8) of 1981 Agreement provides for only four areas, for example but not limited to that, where Economic nationality or equal treatment shall be achieved, these are:

- Freedom of movement, work and residence
- The right of ownership, inheritance and will
- The freedom of engagement in economic activity
- Free movement of capitals

During the first two decades of establishing the GCC, the concept of equal treatment among GCC nationals was applied to many areas of the Agreement. In this connection, the GCC States have adopted important resolutions that provide for permitting the GCC nationals to engage in the economic activity in any Member State, but this was subject to certain controls for each economic area. That was implemented according to the gradual approach provided in the Economic Agreement 1981, and necessitated by the conditions then prevailing. However, in practice, it was found out that some of those controls were difficult to apply, which made the GCC nationals refrain from benefiting from the resolutions of the Supreme Council according them the right of equal treatment in those economic fields. For the joint action to shift from the stage of coordination and cooperation to integration, the trend adopted by the Economic Agreement 2001 tends to the direct application of the concept of fully equal treatment in all economic fields.

Article (3) of the Economic Agreement 2001 contains the most important provision concerning the Economic nationality. The said Article provides

for direct implementation of the concept of fully equal treatment for all GCC nationals through according the GCC nationals residing in any Member State the same treatment accorded to its nationals without differentiation or discrimination in all economic fields; that includes natural and legal nationals. To emphasize this concept and eliminate any ambiguity, the Article mentions ten general economic fields, for example but not limited to that, where equal treatment is to be achieved among GCC nationals. These ten fields include the following:

1. Movement and residence
2. Work in private and government jobs
3. Pension and social security
4. Engagement in all professions and crafts
5. Engagement in all economic, investment and service activities
6. Real estate ownership
7. Capital movement
8. Tax treatment
9. Stock ownership and formation of corporations
10. Education, health and social services

The resolution adopted by the Supreme Council at its 23rd session (December 2002), identified a time schedule for completion of the requirements of the GCC Common Market, as follows:

- a) Equal treatment shall be accorded to the GCC citizens by 2003 in the field of employment in the private sector, Stock ownership, formation of corporations and elimination of relevant barriers.
- b) Equal treatment shall be accorded to the GCC citizens by 2005 in the field of government jobs, social insurance and pension and elimination of relevant barriers
- c) Competent committees shall complete all requirements to ensure achievement of the GCC Common Market by 2007 at the latest.

This time schedule means going ahead with all the procedures that ensure full equal treatment among GCC citizens in all the fields specified in the

Agreement, and elimination of all restrictions and controls that prevent achievement of full equality through updating the resolutions of joint action.

Mechanism of Achieving the Common Market

At its 24th session (December 2003), the Supreme Council adopted a mechanism for following up the progress of the Common Market, which is as follows:

1. The competent ministerial committees shall propose necessary mechanisms for implementation of the GCC Common Market according to the time schedule set forth in the resolution of the Supreme Council at its 23rd session
2. Financial and Economic Cooperation Committees shall follow up the progress of the GCC Common Market in the light of Supreme Council's resolutions and the Economic Agreement, and shall evaluate the stage of implementation reached in each aspect thereof, examine the difficulties hindering implementation and propose appropriate mechanisms for solving them.

While the Economic Agreement 1981 did not contain any downright provision relating to Economic nationality or the Common Market, the revised "Economic Agreement 2001" provides that the objective of the equal treatment in the said ten fields is to achieve the GCC Common Market. The Agreement indicates further that achievement of Economic nationality is one of its objectives.

The preamble of the Economic Agreement 2001 includes an indication that the Agreement represents a response to the aspirations of the GCC citizens to achieve GCC nationalization, including equal treatment, movement and residence, work, investment, education, health and social services.

The steps being taken to achieve Economic nationality

I. Movement and residence

a) Movement and residence of GCC citizens

The GCC citizens enjoy equal treatment in respect to the right of residence and movement among the GCC States. Movement by ID is permitted in five Member States excluding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is currently making final arrangements for permitting movement by ID.

A study on unification of the GCC passport, unification of the basic data to be included in the ID and the development of a smart card that can be used in lieu of the ID for movement and other purposes is currently underway. The smart card has been actually issued in three member States, which are the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman while the three member States achieved a lot in this regard.

b) Movement of Non-GCC nationals

To facilitate trade movement as required by the GCC Customs Union, the resolution of the Supreme Council on the GCC Common Market, taken at the 23rd session, has provided for the following:

"The competent committees shall develop practical mechanisms, subject to appropriate controls, for facilitation the movement of certain categories of non-GCC nationals, such as foreign investors, senior executives, marketing managers and truck drivers, provided that such facilitation shall be achieved by 2003, which is in line with the requirements of the Customs Union and facilitating the free movement of the Intra-GCC trade."

The Supreme Council (24th session) has also adopted a number of mechanisms for facilitating the movement of certain categories of non-GCC nationals. Efforts are still being made to unify the procedures related to the

Intra-GCC tourist visas, as well as the fees applicable to the truck drivers between the GCC States.

II. Working at the government and private sectors

a) Equal treatment at the private sector

Resolution of the Supreme Council (14th session, Riyadh 1993) accorded the GCC nationals employed in the private sector equal treatment as the nationals of the Member State where they are employed, subject to the "implementation controls" approved by the Council at the same session.

Resolution of the Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha 2002) stressed that "full equal treatment" shall be accorded to the GCC nationals in the field of jobs in the private sector and "elimination of the restrictions preventing that" by 2003 at the latest.

The Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs in the GCC States has adopted work programs for increasing the employment opportunities and facilitating the movement of the GCC labors in the private sector. The Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs in the GCC States is following up implementation of these programs with member States. The Executive Office, in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat, submits an independent annual report to the Supreme Council on the recent developments including the steps so far taken, the difficulties encountered and the proposals for overcoming such difficulties.

b) Equal treatment at the government sector

Resolution of the Supreme Council (21st session, Manama 2000) accorded the GCC nationals employed in the Civil Service in any Member State equal treatment as the nationals of the Member State where they are employed.

Resolution of the Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha 2002) stressed that "full equal treatment" shall be accorded to the GCC nationals in the field of jobs in the government sectors and social insurance and pension "elimination of the restrictions preventing that" by 2005 at the latest.

The Ministerial Committee of Civil Service has adopted several resolutions for facilitation of the Intra-GCC movement and employment of GCC nationals, and substituting the non-GCC labor employed in civil service in the GCC States with the available GCC national labor, including the possibility of non-renewal of the contracts made with the non-GCC nationals employed in administrative, clerical and financial jobs once a GCC national substitute is available, as a first stage, and that Member States shall give priority of employing GCC nationals before contracting with non-GCC nationals.

III. Social insurance and pension

- The Supreme Council (20th session, November 1993) instructed that a comprehensive appropriate Social Insurance Law should be developed in each Member State to provide equal coverage to those GCC nationals working outside their countries, or to establish a Joint Social Insurance Fund that would cover GCC national labor working in Member States.
- The Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs in the GCC States and the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee decided in October 2000 "to extend the insurance coverage applicable in each member States to include GCC nationals working outside their countries, as a transitional stage."
- The Ministerial Council (77th session, November 2000) instructed the Social Insurance and Pension authorities to complete the tasks assigned to them under the Council's resolution at its 20th session concerning the after-service rights of the employees working outside their countries to be implemented in five years at the latest.
- The Ministerial Council (23rd session, Doha 2002) resolved that "full equal treatment" shall be accorded to the GCC nationals working in the field of social insurance and pension and "eliminate the restrictions preventing that" by 2005 at the latest.

- The Supreme Council (25th session, Manama 2004) adopted the mechanism proposed by the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee (64th meeting, May 2004) for extending the insurance coverage of the GCC nationals in the public and private sectors working in the other GCC States.

IV. Engagement in all professions and crafts

With regard to professions, the Supreme Council (4th session, November 1983) allowed the GCC professionals to engage their professions in any Member State without exception as of March 1984.

As regards crafts, the Supreme Council's resolution at its 21st session (December 2000) allowed the GCC nationals to engage in all crafts (excluding those listed under the economic activities mentioned in (V) below).

V. Engagement in economic, investment and service activities

Engagement in economic activities

1. Effective from the 3rd session of the Supreme Council (November 1982), GCC natural and legal nationals were permitted to engage in several economic activities. Instead of permitting the engagement of GCC nationals in the economic activities and crafts without differentiation or discrimination, controls were developed for the engagement in activities and crafts (8th session, December 1987) and engagement in retail and wholesale trade (7th session, November 1986).
2. The usual procedure then adopted was that every year new crafts and economic activities would be added to the list of permitted activities. However, resolution of the Supreme Council (21st session, December 2000) allowed engagement in all economic activities and crafts without limitation, excluding 17 activities, which were then limited to the nationals of the member State, subject to the controls adopted by the Supreme Council at its 8th session. All Member States, excluding Qatar, have issued implementing resolutions to this effect.

3. The Resolution of the Supreme Council (23rd session, December 2002) reduced the list of the economic activities and professions whose engagement is limited to the nationals of a member State from 17 to 10 activities. The resolution provided, too, that “the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee shall be authorized to take the decisions relating to cutting or abolishing the remaining economic activities and professions whose engagement is limited to the nationals of a member State.
4. The Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee and its respective subcommittees approved the deletion of certain activities from the said list in the following years; thus reducing the “negative list” to four activities in 2007.

Engagement in Trade activity

a) Retail Trade

The Supreme Council (7th session, 1986) allowed the GCC nationals to engage in retail trade in any Member State and accorded them equal national treatment in accordance with the rules attached to that resolution, which took effect as of 1 March 1987. These rules were amended at the 13th session (Abu Dhabi, December 1992), then at the 21st session (Manama, December 2000). At the 28th session (Doha, December 2007), the Supreme Council approved the improved rules of engagement in retail trade, which had eliminated the restrictions governing this activity.

b) Wholesale Trade

The Supreme Council (7th session, 1986) allowed the GCC nationals to engage in wholesale trade in any Member State and accorded them equal national treatment in accordance with the controls attached to that resolution, which took effect as of 1 March 1990. Those controls were amended at the 15th session (December 1994); the most important of which were the engagement of the natural person in trade by himself and being a resident in the country of activity.

VI. Real Estate Ownership

Article (8) of the Economic Agreement (1981) provided for permitting the real estate ownership, and Article (3) of the new Economic Agreement (2001) provided for equal national treatment in real estate ownership. However, that was made according to a number of restricting controls, particularly ownership of raw lands. Those controls were gradually reduced and the last regulation for real estate ownership, issued at the 23rd session of the Supreme Council (December 2002), did not contain most of those controls.

VII. Movement of Capitals

There are no restrictions on the Intra-GCC movement of capitals. Therefore, resolutions of the Supreme Council did not address this subject in detail. There is an increasing Intra-GCC movement of capitals, notwithstanding, increasing and promoting this movement requires fulfillment of the other requirements of the GCC Common Market, through the elimination of the restrictions on engagement of the GCC nationals in the economic activities.

VIII. Tax Treatment

The Supreme Council's resolution (December 1988) provided for equal tax treatment of the GCC nationals in all member States when engaged in the economic activities, professions and crafts. The said resolution provided that "with effect from 1 March 1989, equal tax treatment shall be accorded to the GCC nationals engaged in the allowed economic activities, including professions and crafts, in the host Member State pursuant to the provisions of the Economic Agreement and the Supreme Council's resolutions, without prejudice to any better tax benefits accorded to the GCC nationals by any Member State.". All Member States have issued implementing directives to this effect.

IX. Stock Ownership and Formation of Corporations

1. The Supreme Council's resolution (9th session, December 1988) allowed GCC nationals to own shares in stock-companies and transfer ownership according to the rules appended thereto. Those rules were amended by the Supreme Council's resolution (15th session, December 1994). The said rules exclude some corporations such as insurance companies and banks. They also allow imposing other restrictions on the Stock ownership and formation of corporations. All Member States, excluding Qatar, have issued implementing directives to this effect.
2. The practical application of those rules proved that only a small number of GCC nationals have benefited from those rules, while other GCC nationals have refrained from investment in this activity because of the strict controls and exclusions thereof.
3. In line with the GCC Economic Agreement, the Supreme Council's resolution (23rd session, December, 2002) provided for equal tax treatment of the GCC nationals in the field of Stock ownership and formation of corporations and the "elimination of all the restrictions preventing that" by 2002 at the latest.
4. By 2005, all Member States have issued resolutions according equal treatment to the GCC nationals engaged in this activity, subject to specific controls in some cases.
5. Since the practical implementation of that resolution requires technical and legal mechanisms that allow GCC nationals and capital corporations to benefit from said resolution, therefore, an international consulting company was hired to develop the necessary mechanisms for the development and integration of the GCC capital markets. The said study was completed in April 2005. The competent committees are currently reviewing these mechanisms to be submitted to the Supreme Council for approval.

X. Education, Health and Social Services

Public Education

The Supreme Council (6th session, Muscat, December 1985) resolved as follows:

- a) All GCC students in the various education stages (primary, intermediate and secondary) shall be accorded equal treatment in all Member States. All Member States have issued implementing directives to this effect.
- b) Certificates and academic instruments issued by any official teaching institution in any Member State shall be treated the same as those issued by the Member State itself, and therefore need not be attested by the educational attachments and the Foreign Ministries.

Higher Education

The Supreme Council's resolution (8th session, December 1987) accorded equal treatment to the GCC students at higher education institutions, in respect to admission and treatment in accordance with the following:

- a) Without prejudice to any better treatment, universities and higher education institutions shall accord GCC students, in respect to admission, the same treatment of the students in the Member State of study, according to the following controls:
 - 1. Applicants from other Member States shall meet the registration and admission requirements approved by the higher education institutions at the host Member State.
 - 2. Priority of admission shall be given to the GCC nationals having residence in the host Member State, who have obtained the General Secondary School Certificate or equivalent from the same host country.
- b) Without prejudice to any better treatment, universities and higher education institutions shall accord GCC accepted students the same treatment of the

students in the host Member State in respect to the study, requirements, fees, rewards, accommodation and healthcare.”

Engagement in the Economic Activity in the Educational Fields

The Supreme Council’s resolution (16th session, December, 1995) allowed the GCC nationals, natural and legal persons, to engage in the economic activity in some educational fields.

Equal Treatment in Healthcare Services

The Supreme Council’s resolution (9th session, December, 1988) resolved that GCC nationals, who are residents or visitors in any Member State, shall be accorded same treatment accorded to the nationals of the host Member State, in respect to benefiting from the services of health centers, clinics and public hospitals, and that shall be effective from 1 March 1989. All Member States have issued implementing directives to this effect.

Future Steps for Fulfillment of Economic nationality

At the 28th Session (Doha, December 2007), the Supreme Council declared the launch of the GCC Common Market. The GCC Secretariat is following up finalization of respective national legislation in each Member State.

For the purpose of finding a reference to the laws and procedures for the GCC Common Market, the "Common Market" Document was adopted by the Supreme Council at the 29th session in December 2008.

In order to communicate with GCC citizens, communicating officers have been appointed for the GCC Common Market from all Member States, in addition to the Secretariat.

The tools enabling GCC citizens to benefit from the resolutions of the Supreme Council are also being completed through the following:

- a) Measuring the degree of benefit by the GCC nationals from the Supreme Council's resolutions concerning Economic nationality: The Secretariat dispatched detailed questionnaires seeking citizens' opinions on the progress of the Common Market, results of such questionnaires are being analyzed for submission to the competent authorities
- b) Continuing disseminating awareness among GCC nationals on the advantages they would obtain from the GCC Common Market. Media officials in member States have also held several meetings wherein they have approved a number of awareness promoting mechanisms.
- c) Developing mechanisms for dispute settlement set forth in the Economic Agreement, which would provide a viable reference for GCC nationals and business relating to the settlement of disputes arising from the interpretation of Economic nationality.

Chapter (6)

The Monetary Union and the Single Currency

Concept and Outset

The concept of introducing a single GCC currency began with the establishment of the GCC. The two basic documents of the GCC, the GCC Charter and the Economic Agreement 1981, have contained reference to the milestones and the basic general features of an economic cooperation and integration program among the GCC States. Amongst the other areas of cooperation behind the establishment of the GCC, the Economic Agreement addressed the stages of the economic integration; the Agreement discussed in detail issues such as the FTA and CET. The Agreement also examined the requirements of the GCC Common Market, the economic and monetary union, including, inter alia, the provision of Article (22) of the Economic Agreement, which provided that "Member States shall coordinate their financial, monetary and banking policies and increase cooperation among the Monetary Agencies and Central Banks, including unification of currency to support the anticipated economic integration among them."

Since then, efforts have been made to achieve economic integration among GCC member States. In 1983, a committee composed of the governors of the Monetary Agencies and Central Banks in the GCC States was formed. The objective of the committee was to implement the provision of this Article and coordinate the financial, monetary and banking policies. Ad hoc committees sprang of the Governors' Committee with a view to study the technical aspects of cooperation and integration in the areas of supervision, control, banking training and the payments systems. The Monetary Union Committee was formed in 2002.

During the period 1985-1987, the Governors' Committee made intensive consultations with the Member States with a view to reaching a common peg

for the currencies of the GCC States, as a first step towards the Single GCC Currency. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were offered as a common peg, but no consensus was reached.

Due to the relative stability of the cross-sectional exchange rates of the currencies of the GCC States in the eighties and nineties, and the fact that the formation of a monetary union and the introduction of a single currency are deemed to be an advanced stage of integration that is usually preceded, according to the economic theory, by other integration stages, i.e. the FTA, the Customs Union and the Common Market. Therefore, the opinion then prevailing within the GCC in the early nineties was that time was not appropriate yet to discuss the details of establishing the Monetary Union and the introduction of the Single Currency; so the Ministers of Finance and Governors of the GCC States suggested that discussion of that subject is to be postponed.

By the end of the nineties, in consideration of the progress achieved in the GCC Customs Union, and the success attained by the EU in respect to the EURO, and building on the tendency of the GCC States to enhance the joint economic action and adopt time schedules to achieve such joint economic action, the subject of the single currency was re-discussed, and the Supreme Council (Bahrain Summit, December 2000) decided to adopt the US Dollar as a common peg for the currencies of the GCC States at the current stage. The Council instructed the Ministers of Finance and the Governors to prepare a time schedule for establishing the Monetary Union and introducing the GCC Single Currency.

Timetable of the Monetary Union

The Supreme Council (December 2001) approved the timetable for establishing the Monetary Union. The schedule provides for adopting the US Dollar as a common peg for the currencies of the GCC States until the end of 2002. All Member States have adopted the US Dollar in due time.

The schedule also provides that Member States shall agree on the relevant convergence criteria of the economic performance that is related to the financial and monetary stability required for the success of the Monetary Union before the end of 2005 to prepare for introducing the GCC single currency and to meet the requirements stipulated by the GCC Economic Agreement (2001), which states that " For the purpose of achieving the GCC Monetary and Economic Union including introduction of the single currency, Member States shall meet the requirements of that union, according to a specific time schedule, and achieve a high level of convergence among Member States in all economic policies, particularly the financial and monetary policies and the banking legislation, and develop criteria to ensure proximity of the significant economic performance averages for achieving financial and monetary stability, such as deficit rates, indebtedness and rates".

Over the past four years, the GCC competent committees have been examining implementation of this paragraph, completed discussion of the economic convergence criteria and determined components thereof, the method of calculation, the acceptable rates and limits of the economic convergence, through the studies made by the Member States and the Secretariat and those prepared by the EU Central Bank and the World Bank to this end. A unit specialized in the studies of the Monetary Union was created in the Secretariat that would help in preparing the studies and continued search and work required for establishing the monetary union and introducing the single currency.

The Supreme Council (26th session, Abu Dhabi, December 2005) approved the following criteria for achieving economic convergence and financial and monetary stability:

1. Monetary convergence criteria: These constitute the inflation rates, interest rates and sufficiency of the foreign cash reserves
2. Financial convergence criteria: These constitute the annual deficit ratio of the government finance to GNP and the ratio of the public debt to GNP

The Governors' Committee examined the formula for calculation and measurement of these criteria and determining the maximum allowable rate of deficit and indebtedness. The committee also discussed the proposed alternatives of the common monetary authority that would undertake the issuance of the GCC single currency and the management of the common monetary policy. The committee has made certain recommendations on these topics. As mandated by the Supreme Council (27th session, Riyadh, December 2006), the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee) has approved in May 2007 a method for calculation of the financial and monetary standards of convergence criteria and rates thereof.

The Supreme Council (28th session, Doha, December 2007) decided that Member States should achieve such standards and instructed the Finance Ministers and governors of National Central Banks to follow up this issue.

The Supreme Council (29th session, Muscat, December 2008) approved the Monetary Union Agreement (MAU) that laid down the legal and institutional framework of the Monetary Union. The MUA has specified the tasks of the Monetary Council and the GCC Central Bank, which will issue the single currency. At this session, the Supreme Council also approved the Statute of the Monetary Council and instructed the Member States to ratify the Agreement at the earliest time in order to prepare for establishing the Monetary Council and enable it to carry out its tasks by 2009 at the latest.

In May 2009, the Supreme Council approved the city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as the location of the Monetary Board. In addition, on June 7, 2009 their Highnesses and Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of the GCC Member States parties to the Monetary Union signed the Monetary Union Agreement.

Impacts of Introducing the GCC Single Currency

- Introducing the GCC single currency and establishing the GCC Monetary Union are the outcome of the economic integration stages that have

been achieved so far. This will increase the advantages of the economic integration and enhance the gains of the Customs Union and the GCC Common Market, as establishing the GCC Monetary Union and introducing the GCC single currency will have many impacts on the various economic sectors, particularly Intra-GCC Trade, tourism and investment. These impacts will largely reflect on the financial services and capital markets, which will achieve an increasing growth and accelerated developments.

- The adoption of a GCC single currency eliminates the risks related to the exchange rates of the GCC currencies, deepens the concept of the common market, efficiently contributes to the development and integration of the GCC capital markets, particularly the securities market, helps improve the stock market and considerably influences it in terms of volume, depth and liquidity.
- Increasing the capability of the GCC corporations to merge into or procure other corporations in the Member States, which would positively reflect on the macro economy and the economic efficiency.
- Introducing a GCC single currency will promote regional competitiveness in the field of the banking and financial services and improve quality of these services. This will positively reflect on their clients in Member States, reduce their costs, lead to diversification of their services, and could even encourage emergence among institutions at the regional level in order to benefit from the economies of scale.
- The positive impacts of introducing the GCC single currency on the banking sector and the integration of the GCC capital markets as well as the positive effects on the monetary and financial policies and adherence to the financial convergence criteria (limits of finance deficit rates and public indebtedness rates) will enhance transparency and financial discipline at the regional level and will positively reflect on the monetary and financial stability in the region. All these are factors that will help attract more national, regional and international investments into the GCC States.
- Finally, as a debate sometimes arises on the suitability of pegging the currencies of GCC Member States and then pegging the GCC single currency to the US Dollar, it is convenient to point out that the above-mentioned resolution of the Supreme Council provided for pegging

currencies of GCC Member States to the US Dollar at the current stage, leaving it for the GCC Common Monetary Authority, after introducing the single currency, to choose the appropriate pegging to one or more currencies or floating it depending on the requirements and conditions of the next stage

However, pegging the currencies of GCC Member States to the US Dollar does not mean that exchange rates of the currencies of GCC Member States may not be changed, as exchange rates against US dollar may change, though pegging to US dollar remains. Once the change is in the same rate, this would not affect the arrangements of the Monetary Union, as exchange rates of the currencies of Member States will be fixed.

Chapter (7)

Cooperation in the Field of Energy

Objectives

The Unified Economic Agreement (1981) provided that Member States should harmonize their policies in the field of oil industry, i.e. extraction, refining, marketing, processing, pricing, exploiting of natural gas and development of the energy resources, and that Member States should develop common oil policies and take common positions towards the other world countries and at the international and specialized organizations.

Article (9) of the Economic Agreement (2001) also provides as follows:

“For the purpose of achieving integration between Member States in the fields of petroleum and minerals industry and other natural resources, and for enhancing competitive positions of Member States,

1. Member States shall adopt integrated policies in all phases of oil, gas and minerals industry to achieve optimal exploitation of natural resources, while taking into account environmental considerations and the interests of future generations.
2. Member States shall adopt unified policies for oil and gas and shall take common positions in this regard towards non-Member States and at the international and specialized organizations.
3. Member States oil and gas companies working within them shall cooperate in supporting and developing research in the field of oil, gas and natural resources and enhance cooperation with universities in these fields.”

Achievements

To implement those objectives, Member States have taken several steps to enhance cooperation in the field of energy, such as the following:

(1) The GCC Petroleum Strategy

The Supreme Council (9th session, Manama, 1988) instructed the Oil Cooperation Committee to develop a long-term petroleum strategy for Member States. Developing that strategy was based on the common features of the Member States, and on the pillars on which the GCC was established; those pillars included achieving coordination, integration and coherence in all fields, and the rules and regulations that followed, in addition to the resolutions, conferences and common GCC agreements as well as the negotiating agreements and policies between Member States and the other international economic groupings and blocs.

It was also taken into account that this objective should be in line with the strategic objectives of the local development plans at Member States and the GCC long-term development strategy, which generally focuses on development of human power, improving living standards, diversification of national economic bases, expanding the role of the private sector in Member States and reducing the dependence on oil as the main source of national income.

This strategy was also based on the political and economic importance of the GCC Member States at the international level and their pilot role in the oil industry and their oil weight, as Member States possess the biggest confirmed oil reserve and form the largest area of oil production and exportation. This confirms the importance of enhancing the political and economic position of the GCC Member States and their worldwide role through enhancing their role and oil weight.

Therefore, the proposed strategy took into account both the internal and external dimensions of the GCC oil relations. The adoption of a GCC unified petroleum strategy is the best method for exploiting the most important natural resources on which their economies depend on. In this connection, the strategic vision of the GCC Member States seeks to achieve a number of main objectives through the adoption of a number of policies and procedures

for achieving these objectives and evaluating the targeted performance according to a crystal-clear implementing mechanism and approved tools for following up and evaluation.

(2) The Regional Emergency Plan of the Oil Products

The Supreme Council (9th session, Manama, 1988) adopted "The GCC Regional Emergency Plan of the Oil Products". The plan aims at cooperation and solidarity of Member States when any Member State is exposed to an emergency that causes discontinuation in the member State or inability to meet its needs of the consumption of oil products until it becomes able to restore its potentials and depend on its own sources.

(3) The Oil Lending System

The Supreme Council (8th session, Riyadh, 1987) approved the Intra-GCC oil lending system. Lending is based on the solidarity of all Member States at the occurrence of any injury that causes breakdown of the structures transporting oil exports to the ports, provided that the injury percentages shall account for 30% of the quantity expected to be exported by the injured State and the expectation that such injury will last for at least one month, subject to the bound shares of OPEC Members.

(4) The Common Mining Law

The Ministers of Petroleum (25th meeting, Doha, 2 November 2003) agreed to prepare a GCC Common Mining Law. The Law encourages investors to exploit the available and promising minerals resources in the region. The law specifies the conditions, obligations and rights of all the parties engaged in the exploitation, processing and marketing of the various ores in a commercial form in some Member States. The adoption of such a Law will be in line with the formation of the GCC Common Market, which requires unification of laws, regulations and legislations, particularly in the field of investment; where the investor finds similarity among GCC Member States in respect to his rights and obligations.

(5) Coordination in the Filed of Marketing

Enhancing coordination and exchange of information and expertise among the experts at GCC Member States in respect to the marketing of the refined oil products and petrochemicals to the different world markets, and the collective work to eliminate all tax barriers and other barriers that prevent access of the GCC exports of crude oil and products thereof to such markets.

(6) Correlations between Energy and Environment

The Supreme Council (9th session, Abu Dhabi, 1998) adopted the following two recommendations concerning the lead-free gasoline and the reduction of sulfur content in diesel:

- The GCC Member States reiterate the importance of Human and Environment protection through offering the lead-free gasoline by the national petroleum companies in the local markets of the GCC Member States. To ensure concurrent implementation of this recommendation among the GCC Member States, due to its relation to the Intra-GCC transportation and communication movement, the GCC Member States stress speeding up the production of this product and marketing it locally by 2002 at the latest with an octane number 90-97.
- The GCC Member States reiterate that all measures shall be taken to reduce the sulfur content in the diesel produced by the national refineries to be compatible with the internationally accepted levels for protection of health and environment from the adverse health impacts of the sulfuric products.

Pursuant to the Supreme Council' resolution, the Ministries of Petroleum and affiliate corporations have implemented that resolution by introducing the lead-free gasoline with the designated octane number during the specified period. They have also adopted the projects for producing the low- sulfur content diesel amongst their strategic priorities.

(7) GCC Energy Team

Enhancement of the role of the Energy Team in its dialogue with the Chinese and European parties with a view to achieving various gains for the diverse phases of the GCC petroleum industry and contributing to opening the Chinese and European markets to the GCC exports of crude oil, refined oil products and petrochemicals.

(8) Collective Action

Making active the collective action to improve the economies and performance levels of the oil refineries and gas industry with a view to achieving the highest revenues and reducing the loss along with making joint efforts to ensure cleanliness of the environment and safety of plants and manufactures to be always compatible with the developments of the international specifications

(9) Trade

Enhancing trade in the petrochemical derivatives (by-products) across the borders of the GCC Member States, and between them and the Arab and international markets that would contribute to the growth of the petrochemical sector

Chapter (8)

Cooperation in the Field of Electricity and Water

General Objectives

The Unified Economic Agreement (1981) stressed that Member States should coordinate and establish infrastructure projects, including power-generating stations and desalination plants in order to achieve the common economic development and coherence of the economic activities. The Economic Agreement (2001) also stressed that Member States should adopt integrated economic policies for the infrastructure projects and the basic utilities such as electricity with a view to supporting the production correlation among the GCC Member States, benefiting from the economies of scale, achieving economic integration and improving distribution of the gains derived there from among Member States.

Cooperation in this vital field includes the electric interconnection, developing a database for electric and water information, unification of electric and water standards and rationalization of electricity and water consumption. It also covers the integrated cycle programme, sustainable development of water, preparation of common reference financial and administrative legislation, joint water emergency plans, publishing a bulletin on water in Member States.

Achievements

(I) Electric Interconnection

The Intra-GCC electric interconnection is the most important joint infrastructure project adopted by the GCC. Among the benefits to be achieved by this project are reducing the required reserve in each Member State, mutual coverage in case of emergencies, benefiting from the surplus and reducing

the power production costs. The GCC Member States are implementing the first phase of the project pursuant to the Supreme Council's Resolution (Kuwait, 1997). This phase includes the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait. In 2001, the GCC Electric Interconnection Commission was established, which will undertake construction, operation and maintenance of the project.

In November 2005, a number of contracts, worth more than one billion US dollars, were signed for implementation of the first phase of the project. The works of this phase were complete and the trial operation commenced in the first quarter of 2009. Having completed interconnection of the electric networks in UAE and Oman, which represents the second phase, the three phases of the project are expected to be completed by 2010.

At their 21st Meeting (Doha, November 2009), the Ministers of Electricity and Water approved the Electric Interconnection Agreement, which organizes the relationship among the contracting parties.

(II) Electric and Water Database

To facilitate the information exchange among the electricity and water authorities at Member States, and to benefit from the accumulated expertise at each Member State, preparation of the structures required for establishing a common database for the electricity and water sectors at Member States have been finalized. The said database has been included in the Internet. The data pertaining to Member States are currently being entered and updated.

(III) Rationalization of Electric and Water Consumption

The heat insulation regulation has been prepared, and the Supreme Council at the 23rd session (Doha, 2003) adopted application of the heat insulation to all buildings at Member States. The Ministerial Committee, concerned with the municipal affairs, was instructed to determine the required heat insulation levels and prepare the relevant controls.

Furthermore, information (media) messages in the field of rationalization of electric and water consumption have been prepared and circulated to the Ministries of Information and TV and Radio Stations at Member States. Joint workshops on rationalization of electric and water consumption are annually organized, in addition to the joint celebration of the World Water Day and the GCC Water Week.

(IV) Unification of the Electric and Water Technical Standards

Their Excellencies, the Ministers of Electricity and Water at the GCC Member States have adopted a number of common GCC technical standards. These standards aim to ensure safety of the GCC nationals, in general and prepare for establishing GCC industries in the electricity and water sectors based on uniform standards.

(V) Studying the Bases for Calculating the Electricity and Water Tariff in the GCC States

A specialized study is currently being prepared for determining the bases for calculating the electricity and water tariff at the GCC States with a view to identifying the aspects of similarity and divergence of these bases, and the endeavor to unify the electricity and water tariff in the GCC States.

(VI) Drafting Common Water Legislation and Reference Guides

The objective of these laws is preserving water resources (traditional and non-traditional) and rationalizing utilization thereof through benefiting from national and international water laws. Technical guides are also being prepared. Such guides contain reference rules and standards that help design and operate water systems in Member States. The following laws are being drafted:

- Water Resources (surface and ground water) Preservation Law
- Treated Sewage Law
- Water Desalination Law

(VII) Sustainable Development and Integrated Management of Water

Deadlines of completion of the projects listed in the programme of Sustained Development and Integrated Management of Water were modified. Moreover, the reference document of the Common Reference Water Policy in Member States is also being revised in order to update it and adopt it as binding document, which will be published and circulated to Member States and interested entities.

(VIII) Preparation of Two Bulletins on Water in the GCC Member States

The first edition of the "Statistical Bulletin on Water in the GCC Member States" was issued in 2008, and the second edition will be issued during 2009.

In addition, a specialist working group was formed to prepare a bulletin on the electricity sector in the GCC Member States.

(IX) Conducting Desalination Research

Conducting specialist research in the field of water desalination is the strategic option to meet the demand on water in GCC Member States. This entails the study of the effect of modern technologies on cutting water production costs. The concerned committee has selected two researches:

- A technical and economic study on the technology of reverse osmosis for desalinating sea water compared with the thermal methods in GCC member States
- Technical and economic feasibility study of the utilization of the solar energy as a source of heat in the various desalination technologies

(X) Conducting surveys on joint ground water resources

To protect the strategic stock of groundwater from depletion and pollution there should be a common mechanism for the control of ground water levels and qualities.

In the light of the estimated prospective demand and supply in Member States, there will be an agreement on the necessary steps that help maintain the sustained virtual life of these exhaustible resources. The Terms of Reference of the Report to be prepared on the trans-border water stratum have been completed.

(XI) Preparation of Common Water Emergency Plans

At present, the GCC Secretariat is developing common mechanisms and procedures to face the emergencies in water, such as environmental or natural disasters or those resulting from sabotage or other acts. The final draft of a Common Water Emergency Plan has been prepared after taking into consideration the comments of Member States. The Plan was adopted as a GCC Common Water Emergency Plan.

Chapter (9)

Cooperation in the Field of Industry

Objectives

The GCC Member States are coordinating the industrial activity among them, developing policies and proposing means for the industrial transformation of the GCC Member States on an integral basis, through unification of their industrial legislation and regulations and expanding industry to include the whole territory of the GCC Member States through promoting the industries ancillary to the basic enterprises distributed among Member States according to their relative privileges.

In this connection, Article (8) of the Economic Agreement (2001) envisaged the objectives of the joint action in the field of industrial development as follows:

- a) Member States shall adopt the necessary policies for increasing the contribution of the industrial sector in the economy and harmonize the industrial activity on an integral basis, including implementation of the "Unified Strategy for Industrial Development in the GCC Member states".
- b) Member states shall unify their industrial legislation and laws, including the laws for encouragement of industry, anti-dumping and safeguards.

Achievements

GCC Member States have gone so far in the field of industrial cooperation and coordination among them. Member States have made all efforts that would enhance the continued industrial development in GCC States such as:

- Adoption of the Unified Strategy for Industrial Development in the GCC Member states, with a view to achieving an industrial development based on integral bases and increasing the industrial sector's contribution to national

income. At its 6th session (Muscat, 1985), the Supreme Council approved the Unified Strategy of Industrial Development and approved the revised strategy (9th session, Abu Dhabi 1988) to keep abreast with the new economic developments.

■ GCC nationality in the field of industry: the Economic Agreement (1981) has exempted the industrial products originated in the GCC Member States from customs duties and duties having a similar effect. Many barriers hindering the Intra-GCC flow of industrial products have been eliminated; as these products were exempted from customs duties since establishing the GCC Customs Union in January 2003.

At its 7th session (Abu Dhabi, November 1986), the Supreme Council allowed GCC investors to obtain loans from the Industrial Development Banks and Funt in Member States and according to the equal national treatment according to certain controls.

■ Exempting the industry inputs from customs duties: the Supreme Council (22nd session, Muscat 2001) decided to exempt the industrial plants in Member States from the customs duties imposed on their imports of machinery, equipment parts, raw and semi-manufactured materials and the packing materials immediately required for industrial production. Necessary controls have also been prepared.

■ Unification of industrial laws and rules: Many laws and rules have been drafted. These laws and rules include the Rules for Coordinating and Promoting the establishment of Industrial Enterprises, the Common Law for Industrial Regulation, the Law on Anti-dumping and Countervailing Measures and Safeguards and the Rules for giving Priority to GCC National Products in Government Procurement. Furthermore, a law for encouraging foreign capital investment in GCC Member States is currently being drafted.

■ Member States have drafted a law on the promotion and development of industry in Member States. Requirements for implementing this law are being finalized.

■ Member States are drafting "A Comprehensive Strategy for Development

of Non-Oil Exports". The strategy contains long-term and short-term goals and enhances competitiveness of the GCC exports.

- Industry forums: The GCC Secretariat General organized several conferences, symposiums and between GCC industry and their partners in other countries and economic groupings. These forums included conferences between the GCC States and the EU, India, US, Japan, Russia and Yemen for exploring investment opportunities in Yemen.

Establishing an office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping

Inspired by the basic GCC objectives and in line with the objectives of the Economic Agreement aiming at achieving economic integration among GCC Member States, the GCC Member States, having acceded to the WTO, have recognized the importance of taking necessary measures to protect GCC industry from the injurious practices in international trade. Such injurious practices included dumping, subsidy and unjustifiable increase in imports that cause or threaten material injury to an established GCC industry or retard the establishment of such industry.

In this connection, the Supreme Council (24th session, Kuwait, December 2003) approved the GCC Common Law of Anti-dumping, Countervailing Measures and Safeguards to be binding as of January 1st 2004. This law is the first step towards establishing an office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping. Objectives of this Office are:

1. To act within the other GCC bodies with a view to maintain the economic achievements of GCC Member States, especially in the field of industry
2. To defend the GCC industry against the injurious practices in international trade
3. To enhance the competitive capacity of the GCC industry

The importance of establishing the GCC Office of the Technical Secretariat for Anti-dumping is due to the increasing practices worldwide. There are

over 3 thousand investigations relating to anti-dumping and more than 127 investigations relating to the unjustifiable increase in imports. In addition, coordination and unification of the efforts of Member States in this field will enhance the negotiating position of the GCC Member States. Finally, confronting these cases is very costly, but the collective action will cut down these costs for Member States.

Chapter (10)

Cooperation in the Field of Patents

Outset and Objectives

The Supreme Council (13th session, Abu Dhabi, 1992) approved the GCC Patent Law with a view to pushing ahead the scientific and technical advancement, achieving the cooperation objectives and setting up the necessary scientific basis for supporting and promoting research and applied science and technology.

The GCC Patent Law was amended per resolution of the Supreme Council (20th session, Riyadh, November 1992). The Rules of Implementation were also amended per resolution of the Ministerial Council (74th session, April 2000) to be consistent with the international agreements in patent field such as Paris Convention (Industrial Property) and TRIPs Agreement, which addresses aspects of intellectual property in World Trade Organization.

The GCC Patent Office, based at the GCC Headquarter, Riyadh, was established on October 1st, 1998. The Office's main function is to register patents in the GCC Member States.

The Office encourages scientific research and technology among Member States, facilitates the flow of technology and supports economic development. It is anticipated that the Office will contribute to the transfer of technology, develop the local technologies to meet the needs of the region and the objectives of development therein, encourage individuals to invest their thoughts in these productive fields and activate the trade, industry and agricultural markets through the introduction of new products and assist industrial and agricultural development dissemination of the inventors' thoughts in these fields and ensuring their intellectual property rights.

Work Mechanism

The Office grants Patent certificates to the field applications if such applications meet the requirements set forth in the Office's Bylaw and the Implementation rules thereof. The Patents granted by the Office are valid across all Member States and need not any further procedures at Member States. The Patent Law prohibits infringing any patent issued by the Office, subject to criminal or civil liability, or both in accordance with the laws and regulations of the GCC Member States.

Resolution of the Ministerial Council (94th session, March 2005) to form the Appeal Committee for settlement of the actions brought by patent applicants was an important step that would enhance the work of the Office.

The committee is composed of 12 members; each Member State is represented by two members: a legal expert and a technician specialized in a specific scientific field. The Committee members are elected in their personal capacity not in their official capacity.

The committee is re-formed every three years per a resolution by the Ministerial Council. The latest composition of the committee members was issued by resolution of the Ministerial Council at its 107th session that was held in Riyadh in June 2008.

The Office's rulings can be appealed against within three months from the date delivered against a notice of receipt or published in the periodic bulletin of the Office or at its web site.

Appeal against the Office's ruling can be made through submitting an appeal to the Appeal Committee. The Committee settled all filed appeals, which totaled thirty two appeals and were all published in the Office Bulletin.

Decisions of the Office concerning the granting of patents or rejection of applications can be objected to within three months from the date published in the periodic bulletin of the Office at its web site. Objection can be made by filing an appeal against the decision in question to the Appeal Committee formed under a resolution by the Ministerial Council.

Achievements

The total number of the applications deposited with the patent Office until the end of Augustus 2008 accounted for 12591 patent applications. The number of applications deposited with the Office over the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, 2007 and 2008 totaled 1037, 1465, 1900, 2331 and 2717 applications respectively. That is an annual increase amounting to 30%, 41%, 29% ,22% and 16%.

By the end of 2008, the number of patents granted by the Office totaled 739 patents, while the number of applications that were rejected for non-completion of the requirements or the request of the applicant to discontinue the granting procedures amounted to 1905 applications. The Office publishes a bulletin called "Patent Bulletin" – ten issues have been issued so far- which covers all the activities relating to patent applications. The office also makes this information available at its web site.

2- Coordination among Member States in the field of Patents

The first coordinating meeting of the directors of patent offices in Member States was held on 17 September 2006. Thereafter, four other coordinating meetings were held during the period from 17 September 2006 to 27 October 2008. The most important recommendations reached in these meetings included, inter alia, the following:

- To make active the provision of Article (20) of the GCC Economic Agreement relating to patents
- To Recommend the need for the Office to participate in the negotiations

made between Member States and the other economic groupings in the field of patents, and informing Member States of all relevant developments

- To exchange documents of the patents issued by the patent offices in member States and instruct the Office to establish links at its web site for these documents
- To exchange computer software used for patent databases and to benefit from successful experiences in this field
- To exchange invitations for attending the symposiums and the various events related to patents and IP
- To exchange training experience
- To provide and exchange laws, rules and publications on patents in Member States

The Office also participates in covering the IPR aspects in the GCC negotiations for trade liberalization with other countries and economic groupings.

In cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce & Industry at Member States and the research institutions and centers, the Office organizes forums and lectures about IPRs. The officials at the Office make visits to the foundations caring for the talented individuals and meet with individuals, who have creative thoughts in the field of inventions and innovations, with a view to developing and promoting, depositing and inspecting these thoughts and finally grant them patents to protect them from infringement. The Office also contributes to the enrichment of the intellectual property knowledge and recognition of its importance through IP articles and research works published in the GCC media.

International Cooperation

The Office signed two MOUs with the Austrian Patent Office and the Chinese IP Office. These MOUs have covered several areas cooperation such as training of the Office personnel, examining patent applications and exchanging patent information published at the bulletin and the websites of

those offices. The Office also cooperates with WIPO (Geneva) in the field of the exchange of patent information and consultations regarding the recent developments of the patent laws and rules worldwide. The Office also attends IP conferences organized by WIPO. In addition, the Office also organizes training courses for its personnel and it cooperates with the EU Patent Office in this regard.

The Office receives information on the patent applications published by Japan Patent Office and the National Institute of Industrial Property in France. The Office is developing a mechanism for cooperation and coordination with the Patent Office in Yemen.

Chapter (11)

Cooperation in the Field of Transportation and Communications

Objectives

Cooperation in the field of Transportation and Communications aims at coordinating the establishment of infrastructure projects such as seaports, airports and roads, and supporting the existing relevant institutions in charge of these projects in Member States. The Office also aims at coordinating policies of Intra-GCC aviation at various levels. The Committee of the Ministers of Transportation and Communications and relevant sub-committees coordinate Intra-GCC cooperation in this field. The following is a brief summary of the GCC achievements in the fields of all types of transportation (land, sea and air):

Achievements

I. Land Transportation

- In implementation of the resolution of the Supreme Council at its 24th session (Kuwait, December 2003) instructing the GCC Secretariat to conduct feasibility study on the project of constructing a GCC railway that interconnects all GCC Member States and enhances their economic development, The GCC Secretariat has signed a contract with a consulting office for the feasibility study on the GCC railway project. The consulting office conducted the said study, and the final report of the study is being reviewed and will be submitted to the Supreme Council for approval.
- Preparation of common standards for road construction and interconnection in Member States
- Establishing the society for the GCC road engineering that seeks to promote the levels of the GCC roads engineering activities and enable the road engineers at Member States to exchange views and expertise in this field.

- Preparation of the Directory of the organizational structures for the Ministries of Communications at Member States with a view to unifying those structures
- Preparation of the Directory of the Traffic Controls
- Preparation of the Directory for the Highway fees
- Preparation of the Transport Safety Rules in Member States
- The Supreme Council adopted a resolution permitting natural and legal persons to engage in all kinds of transportation at GCC Member States and treat them as nationals of the host Member State.

II. Air Transportation

- a) Allowing national carriers to sell tickets directly without having to procure a general agent or GCC national sponsor, which would make it easier for GCC nationals and residents to get air tickets from the national carriers directly and would consequently increase the income of national carriers
- b) Establishing a joint GCC office at IATA to coordinate GCC positions at the international events, follow up the developments in the air transportation and notify Member States of such developments.
- c) Establishing a joint catering unit at Heathrow Airport, London. That catering unit will supply the aircraft of GCC national carriers with meals conforming to the Islamic teachings. Furthermore, many carriers belonging to Islamic countries will also be supplied with such meals, which will contribute to increasing the income of the national carriers,
- d) Increasing the number of flights among GCC States with a view to fostering the ties and visits among GCC nationals and enhancing intra-GCC trade and tourism,
- e) Procuring a joint insurance policy for the GCC national carriers, which would cut relevant costs and provide national carriers with better conditions and privileges in this regard,
- f) Group (joint) purchasing of jet fuel at some stations worldwide.
- g) Preparing a unified training directory and a security procedures directory for national carriers

III. Sea Transportation

- a) Issuance of the Unified Directory of the Port Rules and Regulations at GCC Member States to be binding on all Member States .
- b) Preparation and adoption of the Standard Model for the GCC Port Statistics.
- c) Issuance of the GCC Common Maritime Law to be implemented by the ports of the GCC Member States and the GCC Maritime Affairs Departments.
- d) All Member States have signed the MOU on the inspection and surveillance of vessels in the seaports of Member States (Riyadh MOU), which is an international MOU made among some countries belonging to a single region at any part of the world. This MOU addresses the safety and protection of marine environment at that region. That MOU was made active by establishing a Secretariat Office and Information Center for the MOU at Muscat where they commenced their tasks.
- e) Preparation of safety rules for small-load vessels not subject to international conventions.
- f) Preparation of a study on establishing a GCC company for marine navigation aids.

Chapter (12)

Cooperation in the Field of Telecommunications

Objectives

In consideration of the increasing importance of telecommunications in the 21st century, the Economic Agreement (2001) has outlined the objectives of the joint work in this vital field. Article (24) of the Agreement provided that " Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure integration of their telecommunication policies, including telephone, post and data network services, which would lead to improving their service levels and economic efficiency and to strengthening the ties among GCC citizens as well as private and public institutions."

Achievements

Several achievements have been attained in the telecom field over the past years. These achievements can be summed up as follows:

- Offering discounts in all telecom service rates during night hours, Fridays and official holidays across Member States
- Unification of telecom service fees and rates
- Adopting the S.K.A. principle
- Transforming the Permanent Telecom Committee into the GCC Telecom Technical Office after accession of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman and the approval of its by-law.
- Completing the study on integration among the GCC States in the field of telecommunications
- Interconnecting the GCC States through optical fiber cables
- Expanding the GCC local networks to accommodate the ending and transiting GCC traffic.
- Unification of several training programs in the field of telecommunications and application of such programs at the institutes and colleges.
- Organizing several joint courses by the telecom institutes, colleges and

centers and admitting many GCC trainees into these courses.

- Offering many scholarships to the GCC citizens.
- Establishing the GCC Group within the Board of Directors of the Maritime Satellite Organization.
- Formation of the GCC Group at the Governing Council of Intelsat
- Adopting the GSM system across all Member States
- Solving a lot of the frequency interference troubles among the GCC States through organizing periodic coordination meetings
- Adopting the Service Restoration Plan (Emergency) in the telecom field among the GCC States
- Reducing the inter-calculation rates with such countries that apply high rates, through the working team which has made collective (group) visits to those countries
- Conducting the study on the dissemination of waves and coordination of the frequency utilization among the GCC States
- Organizing a number of specialized forums about the effects of the WTO Agreement on Telecommunications and Post
- Reducing telephone rates among Arab countries
- Finalization of the direct interconnection between the Internet networks at the GCC Member States due to the economic benefits thereof, the information security and specification of the names and addresses of the GCC Internet Scopes, enhancement in the local content of the Internet network and making efforts for Arabization of the information on the internet
- Adopting the methodology developed by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, provided that such methodology shall be adopted as a GCC basis for Arabizing the bands and sites
- Completing the links among the GCC Member States through optical fiber cables. Such links have now become integral and highly efficient.
- Intensifying the exploitation of the GCC transit centers for passing the intra-GCC surplus movement and that outgoing to other non-GCC countries, and the agreement on transit rates based on commercial and competitive rates.
- According equal national treatment to the GCC wireless (radio) amateurs, who have obtained a license from any GCC Member State, when applying for a license at any other Member State.

- Opening the local markets at the GCC Member States to competition and the access of GCC corporations in this field
- Approving the construction of CERTs to address accidents and response thereto at the time of occurrence at various levels, and establishing a cooperative network among the CERTs for the exchange of information and the technologies of information security on the Internet
- Offering discounts on the rates collected from users, which conforms to the discount on the inter-calculating rates.
- Adopting commercial and preferential discounts for the Intra-GCC transit rates that are conforming to the technical and pricing benefit
- Calling the local information number through a mechanism to be developed for connecting mobile and line telephone subscribers' data sites in accordance with the rules for providing a subscriber's number existing at another Member State via the local network and connecting subscriber data sites at the Secretariat's web site and the web sites of the telecom companies.
- Application of the "Camel" feature to the networks in question, taking into account the latest applications of this feature
- The GCC Member States have become members in some international organizations (International Telecom Union, Universal Postal Union)
- Adoption of the MOU on Express Courier among GCC member States
- Organizing the GCC Joint Post Stamps Exhibition in Member States every year according to the alphabetical order
- Offering preferential discount postal rates for all printed matters published at Member States and a discount postal rate among Member States
- The approval to reduce the compensation amount in case of non-conformity of the postal parcel exchanges of the express post among Member States
- The issuance of a Unified GCC Stamp on the GCC 25th anniversary
- Participation of Member States in the International Stamp Exhibition under the name of "The GCC Postal Group"
- Adopting group purchasing of the post materials and equipment
- Finalization of a study on establishing an express post courier among GCC Member States
- Starting to promote and market the new express post product under a new name "GULF EX"

Chapter (13)

Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

Objectives

The joint action in the field of agriculture and water aims at unifying member States policies and laws and adopting joint projects in the field of agriculture, water and fish resources. The GCC Member States seek to achieve food security through the optimal utilization of the available natural resources. Over the past years, significant achievements have been attained in this vital field.

Achievements

I. The GCC Revised Common Agricultural Policy

The Supreme Council (17th session, Doha, December 1996) adopted the GCC Revised Common Agricultural Policy with a view to achieving agricultural integration among Member States according to a common strategy based on the optimal utilization of available water resources, provision of food security from national sources, increasing production and encouraging joint enterprises with private sector contribution. The Agricultural Cooperation Committee and the respective technical committees thereof are implementing the programs of this policy. Many relevant programs, projects and studies have been implemented so far.

II. Laws and Regulations

- The adoption of a mechanism for facilitating the flow of the imported agricultural and animal products in agreement with the Customs Union Committee
- The agricultural quarantine law (binding)
- The veterinary quarantine law (binding)

- The Law on Fertilizers and Soil Improvements (binding)
- The Pesticides law (binding)
- The Law on Registration of the Veterinary Medicaments
- The Law on Seeds, Seedlings and Cuttings
- The Forests and Pastures Law

There are other laws and regulations that will be submitted to the next session of the Supreme Council upon finalization of their Rules of Implementation, which are as follows:

1. The Law on Veterinary Profession and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
2. The Common Law on the Exploitation and Preservation of Live Water Resources
3. The Law on Veterinary Pharmaceuticals and Rules of Implementation thereof

III. Development of the Capacities of Agricultural Quarantines

In 2006, an agreement was made with the FAO on implementing a technical program for the development of the agricultural quarantines at Member States with a view to raising their technical efficiency and developing staff's skills and capabilities so that they can handle the agricultural consignments in the light of the international laws, conditions and requirements to protect the GCC nationals and residents as well as environment and plants from plant epidemics and diseases, which would contribute to the facilitation and flow of trade. The second phase of this program is currently being implemented.

IV. Joint Projects

Several joint projects have been set up that have contributed to the development of the GCC joint action in these fields, with private sector's contribution in certain cases. The most important projects are the following:

- The Seeds and Seedling Company, Riyadh
- Breeding Poultry Company, Riyadh
- Utilization of the services provided by the Viral Disease Diagnosis Lab

and the Veterinary Vaccinations Lab; both labs belong to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and will soon provide their services to other GCC States.

- The project for manufacturing the poultry and dairy equipment at Fujairah.
- Establishing a model agricultural project at UAE
- Conducting a comprehensive survey of the prawn fishing
- A comprehensive survey of the sea bottom fish is currently being prepared
- A project for the observation of the Can'ad fish through the geographical information system has been completed
- The agreement on unified tariffs of the agricultural and veterinary quarantines at GCC border points
- Specifying the ports of entry for the agricultural and animal products in implementation of the requirements of the customs union.
- The Palm Research Project

V. Conferences, Forums and Training

- Organizing joint workshops and forums on various agricultural and water topics, such as the forum on conservation and development of the fish resources, the agricultural epidemics forum, the forum on the conservation and development of the water resources, the forum on meat control and the forum on the genetically modified agricultural products, and workshop on food safety.
- Organizing a number of training courses
- Member States are coordinating their positions in relevant regional and international conferences.

Chapter (14)

Cooperation in the Field of Planning, Statistics and Development

Objectives

The joint action in the field of planning and development aims at achieving coordination and harmonization of the development plans of the GCC Member States to reach integration in all fields. To this effect, the GCC Member States are developing strategies, policies and mechanisms for enhancing economic and social integration in the light of reviewing and evaluating the existing integration policies, proposing policies and programs for setting up joint projects that would achieve the GCC economic integration objectives, formulating appropriate policies and programs for increasing the role of the economic development and developing the general frameworks that are in line with the objectives of the comprehensive development in the GCC Member States.

The GCC Member States are also coordinating efforts in the field of information exchange, utilizing the information technology for developing data and statistics and facilitating exchange thereof among Member States, implementing joint programs and enterprises, unifying statistical classifications and directories, and coordinating cooperation of the GCC Member States with regional and international organizations and blocs in fields of planning, development and statistics with a view to maximizing benefit among Member States. Member States are also developing programs for the exchange of experience in the field of planning.

Achievements

1. The document entitled "Objectives and Policies of the GCC Development Plans"

The Ministerial Council (14th session, March 1985) adopted the document

entitled "Objectives and Policies of the GCC Development Plans" based on mandate by the Supreme Council (5th session).

2. The GCC Long-Term Comprehensive Development Strategy (2000-2025)

The Supreme Council (19th session, Abu Dhabi, 1998) adopted the GCC Long-Term Comprehensive Development Strategy (2000-2025). The core objective of the Development Strategy is to achieve an integrated sustained development process for member States in all fields and to deepen coordination of the activities of national development plans with a view to achieving development objectives in each Member State separately and at the GCC States level as a single group leading to continued improvement of living

quality in Member States and ensuring self-capacity to cope with the developments and challenges of the 21st century.

3. The General Framework of the GCC Population Strategy

The Supreme Council (19th session, Abu Dhabi, 1998) adopted the General Framework of the GCC Population Strategy.

This document entails the objectives that GCC Member States seek to achieve concerning the population situation and the policies and directives towards achieving population growth rates that are consistent with the development ambitions in Member States leading to appropriate population composition through high-level training of national cadres, development of human resources and the adequate organization of the recruiting of expatriates. In addition to drawing up policies for the control of urban growth and internal immigration. The population strategy is based on pillars derived from the GCC Charter and objectives of the policies of GCC development plans. These pillars are as follows:

- The special relations, common features and similar laws that are based on the doctrine of Islam which interconnects all GCC Member States
- The common destiny and goal that unite GCC peoples

- The desire to achieve coordination, integration and interconnection among Member States in all fields.
- Working on reviewing and developing the Member States' population strategy.

4. Unification of the Periods for Conducting Census in GCC Member States

The Supreme Council (22nd session, Oman, 2001) decided that would conduct joint census by 2010, to be conducted thereafter every ten years, provided that Census shall be conducted in zero years.

5. Conducting a Common Census for Population, Houses and Installations in 2010

The competent technical committees have completed several phases of the common census across Member States to be conducted in 2010, such as, inter alia, approval of the three census basket. Statistical directories used for census as well as work methodology and programs are currently being standardized and updated.

6. GCC Common Statistic Program

GCC Member States agreed to implement a common field statistic project every year, to be selected according to the need of Member States as a single group of statistic data to be compiled. In this connection, the following achievements were attained:

- Survey of household expenditure and income in Member States for years 2006-2007: Final results of this survey at Member States level are being concluded
- Labor Force survey in Member States (2007): Member States have finalized the necessary arrangements for implementation of Labor Force survey (2007)

- Foreign Investment Survey (2008): Some Member States have conducted the agreed foreign investments survey 2008. Arrangements are being taken to complete the survey in the other Member States.

7. Smart Card Project

The GCC States have completed the Unified Directory for the specifications, standards and rules pertaining to the smart card. All GCC Member States have issued the smart card, which is currently used for Intra-GCC movement of GCC citizens. Smart Card is also being applied at the electronic gates at GCC Member States for the movement of passengers, in particular as well as for the issuance of driving licenses and medical file

8. The GCC 1st Human Development Report

The GCC States have completed the directory of the human development indexes incorporating common indexes and concepts and the methods of calculation. The GCC Secretariat is preparing for issuing the first GCC HR Development Report in cooperation with the UNDP.

9. Directory of Statistic Concepts and Terminology

The GCC States accomplished the Unified Directory of Statistic Concepts and Terminology used at Member States in 2009, which would facilitate comparative research.

10. The Unified Directory of the GCC Economic Activities

The GCC States have completed the first six parts of the Unified Directory of the GCC Economic Activities 2009.

11. Prices and Standard Figures

- GCC Secretariat is currently unifying classifications used for selecting the GCC commodity price list. GCC Member States have agreed to adopt COICOP for classification of the new basket to be prepared upon completion of the survey on GCC household expenditure and income.
- GCC Member States have agreed that year 2007 will be the base year for calculating standard consumer prices in member States.
- Preparation of the consumer standard price lists supposing that year 2000 is to be a common base year for Member States with a view to facilitating comparison of inflation rates in GCC Member States.

12. The GCC Common Statistical Law

The GCC States have completed the final draft of the GCC Common Statistical Law. The draft law was submitted to the Ministerial Committee for Planning and development for approval.

13. Implementation of the UN National Accounts System 93

The GCC States agreed to implement the UN National Accounts System 93. Member States implemented the first plan (1998-2005) and the second plan (2007-2009).

14. Intra-GCC Trade

GCC Member States agreed on a mechanism to measure intra-GCC trade that would help set estimated percentages for customs revenue sharing among Member States.



SECTION THREE

COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

Education, Science and Technology, Human Resources, Social
Field, Cultural Field, Environment, Health, Municipalities,
Youth, Sports

CHAPTER (1)

COOPERATION IN EDUCATION

Beginnings and objectives

The joint educational process began prior to the establishment of the GCC through the Arab Bureau of Education for the GCC States that was established in 1975 under supervision of the Ministers of Education (The General Conference). The development of education in the region in a later stage, the emergence of higher education institutions, which were dependent from the Ministries of Education, such as colleges, universities, institutions of technical education and applied training, and the establishment of Ministries of Higher Education have caused the Bureau's projects and programs to focus mainly on public education.

Therefore, the first meeting of the committee of the directors and presidents of universities and the higher education institutions (the Secretariat-General, March, 1986) represented the launch of the organized joint educational work under the auspices of the GCC in the field of higher education. The meeting discussed topics of special importance to the process of cooperation and integration among the GCC States. The topics included resolutions of the Supreme Council on the public education and higher education, objectives, policies and development plans, priorities of the joint action for higher education, equal treatment of students in terms of admission and treatment, coordination of efforts in the field of research, Arabization of higher education and enhancing the Council's trend towards integrity and integration and the joint students activities and meetings.

Due to the numerous fields of integration and cooperation among the higher education institutions, the committee of the directors and presidents of universities and the higher education institutions adopted a plan for joint action (Kuwait, November, 1993). The plan identified the fields and objectives of cooperation among the higher education institutions and the

mechanism for organizing the meetings, studying the aspects of coordination and integration and addressing matters of mutual interest. According to the plan, certain committees have been formed, such as committees of the deans of colleges (Arts, Science, Medicine), support deanships (admission and registration, libraries, students, vice-presidents of universities) and heads of certain scientific departments.

In 1996, with the Ministries of Higher Education being established in most of the GCC States, a Ministerial Committee for Higher Education was formed to supervise the efforts of cooperation and integration between the higher education institutions and bodies. In addition to these two committees, there is a committee composed of the chairpersons of the degree-offset committees, a committee of the officials of technical education and vocational training and a committee of the deans of the technical colleges. Besides, there are many joint action committees (Colleges of medicine, Engineering, Education, etc.) as well as committees of support deanships (Admission and Registration, Student Affairs, Community Service, etc.).

Resolutions of the Supreme Council

The joint educational action has played a significant role in the process of education among the GCC States. This is demonstrated in the several resolutions taken by the Supreme Council in the field of education, the most important of which are the following:

- 1) Adoption of the objectives and means that ensure the role of education in meeting the development needs of the GCC States (Muscat, 1985)
- 2) According equal treatment to the GCC students at the various education stages (primary, intermediate, secondary) studying in any Member States
- 3) Treating the certificates and degrees issued by any official education institution at the GCC States the same as those issued by the host Member State (Muscat, 1986)
- 4) Equal treatment to the GCC students at the higher education institutions in respect to admission and treatment (Riyadh, December, 1987)

- 5) Allowing GCC citizens to engage in the economic activity in the field of education (Muscat, 1995)
- 6) Supporting the Arab Gulf University. Seats at the university have been designated in the names of the GCC leaders; Member States have financed some scientific and academic programs (Riyadh, 1993)

The joint education process has been furthered by another set of important resolutions which had a direct impact on the adoption of several cooperation programs and projects:

- Adopting the joint plan for the improvement of the public education curricula (Manama, 2000)
- Approving the recommendations of the Consultative Commission of the Supreme Council concerning education and development of the education curricula (Muscat, 2001)
- Adopting the educational trends outlined in the documents submitted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on the joint action process (Doha, 2002)
- Adopting the educational trends (Doha, 2002)
- Approving the study on the comprehensive development of education at the GCC States (Kuwait, 2003)
- Adopting the criteria and procedures for evaluating and offsetting the higher education degrees granted by non-GCC universities (Doha, 2007).
- Approving the Kuwait paper regarding the education program announced in the Supreme Council 28th session in Doha (December, 2007).

Due to the importance of these resolutions and their reflection on the joint educational process, a summary of each is presented hereunder:

The Joint Plan for the improvement of Public Education curricula

The General Conference of the Arab Bureau of Education for the GCC States (16th session, Manama, March, 2001) approved the plan programs (18 programs). The Bureau has commenced implementation of these programs

making provisions within its budget to meet the requirements thereof. These programs are the following:

- Re-formulating the general objectives of education
- Preparation of a reference framework for the pre-school education stage
- Developing the common destiny in sociologies
- Improving specifications of the school book and the instructional aids
- Objectives of the school subjects
- Identification of the basic skills for the first three elementary grades
- Integration among school subjects
- Utilization of the IT and computer technology
- Placement tests
- Identifying teachers' efficiencies
- Development of thinking skills
- Relative weight of school subjects
- General objectives of Education and objectives of the school stages
- Development of thinking skills
- Teachers' efficiencies
- Placement tests

In consideration of the importance of the joint plan for the development of the public education curricula, the Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha, December, 2002) adopted the plan to be the basis of the Bureau's programs and projects. The Bureau has completed most of the programs of the plan.

Recommendations of the Consultative Commission on Education

The Supreme Council (22nd session, Muscat, December, 2001) adopted the recommendations of the Consultative Commission (4th session) on education and the development of educational process. The Council decided to refer the proposed joint projects to the competent ministerial committees for developing the necessary implementing mechanisms.

It is worth mentioning that the Consultative Commission has diagnosed the educational process and the challenges encountered, and has developed a set of recommendations falling in four axes: the first is a general one, the second addresses pre-elementary education and education for special-need students, the third deals with public education and the fourth deals with higher education. The CC has also proposed a number of joint projects in the field of education and scientific research.

In implementation of the above, the Committee of the Presidents and Directors of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, October, 2002) formed a committee of experts to study the proposals of the Higher Education and Research Commission and develop the steps to be taken for implementation. The 8th Meeting of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Abu Dhabi, March, 2003) decided that the Committee's recommendations are to be circulated to the Ministries, Universities and national Research Centers and required them to prepare periodic reports on the programs and steps implemented or to be implemented.

In the field of public education, the Financial Session (2005-2006) of the Arab Bureau of Education for the GCC States included a number of relevant programs.

With regard to the joint projects, the Commission proposed to establish an Academic Accreditation Board, a Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical development, A Regional Center for Scientific and Technical Research in the field of Energy and a joint center for strategic studies in the field of energy.

The Committee of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Kuwait, February 2002) decided that a team from the Ministries of Higher Education is to be instructed to prepare a study on the requirements of establishing the Academic Accreditation Board. A coordination committee for Academic Accreditation in the field of higher education was formed. Member States will consequently form national accreditation boards.

The Educational Aspect of the Document of Opinions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

The document of opinions submitted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz at the Consultative Meeting (Jeddah, May, 2002) addressed a number of aspects related to the GCC economic and social process, including education. The Supreme Council (Doha, December, 2002) adopted the recommendations set forth in the summary report, which the Secretariat has prepared in the light of the proposals and comments of Member States on the educational aspect of the document. The Supreme Council has also instructed the ministerial committees to develop the necessary mechanisms and programs for implementing these recommendations. It is worth to mention that the said recommendations were based on four axes: building the educational basis, compatibility between the education outputs and the development requirements, development of curricula and coordination and integration among the education institutions.

In this connection, the Secretariat-General has taken many following up steps and organized several orientation activities and adopted appropriate steps for implementation through the joint action committees. Resolution of the Supreme Council (Kuwait, December, 2003) reiterated the importance of that Document and the adoption of the necessary programs for implementing its contents. In response to this resolution, the Ministers of Education (at the meeting of the General Conference of the Arab Bureau of Education for the GCC States, Kuwait, February, 2005) adopted the Document to be a reference for the Bureau's plans and projects. The General Conference has also adopted a number of relevant educational programs and activities.

The Committee of the Ministers of Education and Scientific Research has also formed a specialist working team to examine the reports received from Member States on the implementation mechanisms. King Abdulaziz University organized, in cooperation with the Secretariat-General, a workshop in February 2005 for submitting proposals about the Document. The findings of the workshop were submitted to the 10th Meeting of the Ministers of

Higher Education (Riyadh, March, 2005) where a working party was formed to develop a plan for implementation of the Supreme Council's resolution on the Document of the comprehensive development of education.

Directives (Recommendations) concerning Education

The Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha, December, 2002) has issued a resolution on education, which included a number of recommendations that can be summed up as follows:

- Development of Curricula
- Development of the Teacher
- Compatibility between the education outputs and the development requirements
- Organization and Administration
- Integration of Resources and Exchange of Experience
- Improvement of Quality and Quality Control

The Document of the Comprehensive Development of Education

The Supreme Council (24th session, Kuwait, December, 2003) adopted the Document and instructed the competent ministerial committees to implement the projects and programs contained in it. The resolution of the Supreme Council called for developing an integrated educational plan that takes into account the other resolutions of the Council issued on education. The Document contained several programs and projects for the development of education, such as the following:

- The integral comprehensive perspective for development of education, which includes, for example, the following programs:
 - The GCC Project for professionalization of education: A unified vision
 - The quality assurance project for development of the administrative and organizational performance of the education institutions
 - The E-University and E-School Project: A reference framework for

achieving coordination and integration in the field of virtual education

- The Project of promoting the education outputs
- The Partnership between the education institutions and community

In implementation of the said resolution, the Committee of the Ministers of Higher Education assigned a specialized team to study the programs set forth in the Document for the comprehensive development of education and develop the appropriate implementing plan. Universities are expected to cooperate for implementing some of these programs.

The present stage is marked with quality advancement at the level of each Member State in the field of opening new public and private universities and colleges, the assurance of quality education, scientific research or overseas scholarship. All these steps have been an implementation of the resolutions of the Supreme Council in the area of education.

As to the public education, the Arab Bureau of Education for the GCC States commenced implementing 34 programs within the framework of the program for comprehensive development of public education. The program includes the following areas: Curricula and Education, Professionalization of Education, education systems, technology and education and community partnership.

3. Social and educational coherence

The Bureau organized many educational and youth meetings and activities that are periodically organized by GCC universities with participation of higher education students and institutions. These activities include many participants every year, in addition to their indirect impact on all categories of GCC community. The following are some of the activities that were completed so far:

a) Student Activities

- Organizing six educational weeks for the university students at the GCC States: Hundreds of students participate in these weeks with their scientific, educational and social output.
- Organizing six sport competitions for the university students at the GCC States, the sixth competition was organized at Kuwait University (March 2005). Hundreds of university students have participated in those competitions
- Organizing 21 visits for the distinguished students from the universities of the GCC States. Each visit was made to one of the GCC universities, where students met university staff and students
- Organizing 12 camps for the rover students from the universities of the GCC States
- Organizing several across-country racing competitions
- Organizing the university theatre festival for the students of the universities of the GCC States
- Organizing several meetings
- Organizing the first GCC Competition for vocational skills

b) Forums and Conferences

Many scientific forums and conferences have been organized at university, college or department level.

c) Studies and Research

- Issuing the Arab Accounting magazine (periodical); A concise scientific magazine issued by the accounting departments.
- Basic education; the Ideal and Application
- Compatibility between the higher education outputs and the development requirements of Labor Force in the GCC States
- Intermediate colleges: The international experience and the efforts of the GCC States in this connection

- Selection of teachers and assessment of their performance
- Admission criteria at the universities of the GCC States
- Guidelines for development of higher education at the GCC States
- Diversification of finance sources of higher education
- Social and financial positions of the GCC students abroad
- Methods and techniques for detecting false degrees (for the officials in charge of offset of degrees at the GCC States)
- Study on comprehensive development of education
- Study on the special-need students at higher education institutions and universities
- Study on the indexes and achievements in higher education.
- The Supreme Council resolutions in the field of education and education excellence.
- Highlights on the high education process in the Member States (resolutions and accomplishments).

4. Social and educational coherence

In view of the expansion of joint action in the field of higher education, presidents and directors of universities and higher education institutions adopted a regulation that allows universities and higher education institutions to participate in managing part of the joint action affairs. Accordingly, many secretariats were formed for colleges such as the secretariat of the committee of the deans of medicine, education, science, engineering, etc. in addition to the committees of support deanships such as the committee of deans of community service and continued education centers, admission and registration, libraries, student affairs, etc. These secretariats were distributed to universities according to the sphere of specialization. These secretariats successfully perform their duties as they have achieved a great deal of coordination and cooperation in various fields such as:

- Teaching methodologies
- Exchange of expertise and potentials
- Joint scientific research

- Scientific conferences and workshops
- Performance development of teaching staff
- Establishing a database "Gulf Research Portal" which is a project that serves scientific research and academic action in the field of higher education at Member States level
- Distant teaching
- Modern applications of technology.
- Creating an award for the excellence in designing and improving electronic curricula.

These committees have developed five-year plans that include several joint programs and projects. The secretariats of these committees submit annual reports, through GCC Secretariat, to the committee of the presidents and directors of universities and higher education institutions in Member States.

Chapter (2)

Scientific and Technical Cooperation

Objectives

GCC Member States recognize that science and technology are the pillars of any development and welfare. Therefore, the advancement in science and technology has become one of their national priorities. GCC Member States are convinced that the development of their communities and the provision of the factors of power and prosperity depend mainly on their success in mobilizing and organizing their potentials in science, research and technology.

Therefore, Member States have attached a special importance to cooperation in the scientific research and technology since the very beginning of the GCC process. Article (4) of the GCC Charter provides that member States shall stimulate scientific research and technological progress in the fields of industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources; to establish scientific research centers and to establish joint ventures. Both the Economic Agreement 1981 and the Economic Agreement 2001 stress these objectives; the latter provides

"Member States shall adopt, as basic priorities for development, policies to support joint scientific and technical research, and develop their own joint scientific, technical, and information technology databases, including the adoption of the following policies:

- Increase the funds allocated to scientific and technical research.
- Encourage and provide the necessary incentives to the private sector to contribute to the funding of specialized scientific and technical research,
- Ensure that international companies operating in the GCC States sponsor specialized programs for scientific and technical research in the Member States.
- Establish a native scientific, technical, and information technology base that fully utilizes the expertise of international and regional organizations.

- Integrate scientific research institutions in the GCC States in order to develop and activate the scientific, technical, and information technology base referred to in this Economic Agreement work jointly to set up common research centers."

The Economic Agreement further provides:

"For the purposes of developing and fully utilizing their scientific, technical, and information technology base, Member States shall take the following measures, as a minimum:

- Develop mechanisms for achieving optimal utilization of scientific and technical research in both public and private sectors, and continued coordination between the executive bodies on the one hand and the outputs of the scientific, technical, and information technology base, on the other.
- Make the outputs of the scientific, technical, and information technology base available to specialists, researchers, businessmen and investors through simplified procedures.
- Support and develop technical information networks, systems and centers in member states, and adopt programs to facilitate information dissemination and exchange among the institutions of scientific and technical research in the GCC States."

To meet the said objectives, a committee was formed to enhance cooperation among Member States in the field of scientific and technical research. Functions of this committee are coordination, cooperation and unification of positions. The fields through which these functions can be performed include developing policies and programs of scientific and technical research and proposing areas of scientific and technical joint action.

The role of universities and research institutes is crucial for the comprehensive and sustained development process in Member States. The competent committee enhances partnership and cooperation between scientific and technical research institutions and industrial and production plants through developing interlocking relations between scientific research and development in Member States.

Enhancement of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in GCC Member States

Energy consumption rates of electric energy and desalinated water whose production depends on oil and gas products in GCC Member States are of the highest rate worldwide, which is attributed to the increased population growth rate, development plans and the volume of enterprises. Therefore, GCC Member States decided to seek another source of energy to use it as an additional source beside oil and gas in order to achieve economic development and social welfare. GCC Member States found out that nuclear energy could be utilized to achieve this objective along with supporting international efforts for developing other renewable sources of energy.

This trend will certainly provide greater quantities of oil and gas exports to international markets, which will enhance their stability by increasing supply and consequently increase national revenues. Moreover, the diversified sources of energy will second, but not substitute, oil and gas. This will reduce the oil and gas depletion rates and prolong production period in order to preserve this non-renewable resource for future generations. Besides, this will provide additional potentials to cope with the technology transfer for peaceful purposes.

This strategic trend for utilizing nuclear energy in power generation and water desalination is encouraged by many factors: Such as the use of this source will help reduce carbon dioxide emission, one of the gases causing global warming phenomenon. Moreover, the high levels of safety and performance of nuclear energy has abated the public concern about the construction of nuclear reactors. In addition, the costs of utilizing nuclear energy depend mainly on the capital costs of the construction of nuclear reactors. This, of course, protects nuclear energy from price fluctuations.

GCC Member States have taken the first step towards this trend when the Supreme Council (27th session, Riyadh, December 2006) decided to conduct

a joint study on the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes according to international standards. In implementation of this decision, GCC Member States agreed that IAEA would conduct a preliminary feasibility study on the use of nuclear energy for power generation and water desalination to be followed by a detail study and implementation work program. The Consultations between the GCC Secretariat and IAEA demonstrated that any program for nuclear energy would entail a series of issues related to nuclear materials and radiations, which requires utmost care in planning, preparation and investment in order to provide the minimum infrastructure required for implementation of this program; and that implementation of this program entails a series of complicated and correlated activities that would take a prolonged period (10-15) years from the date of introducing nuclear energy till the operation of the first nuclear plant depending on the individual capabilities and available facilities of Member States. This means that the required study will have economic, technical and legal implications. GCC Member States agreed that a preliminary feasibility study would be conducted first, and in the light of the conclusions of this preliminary study a detail feasibility study would be prepared.

Objective of the preliminary feasibility study is to identify the present and future needs of Member States of electric power and desalinated water and examining the possibility of meeting such needs through utilization of nuclear energy in an economic and safe manner as well as identifying the main requirements such as institutional infrastructures, organizational legislation and work force for the joint project across GCC Member States. Cooperation with IAEA gives, particularly at its preliminary phases, more transparency concerning the peaceful use by GCC Member States of nuclear energy for power generation and water desalination in addition to the need of the IAEA advice and expertise.

The preliminary feasibility study concluded that the use of nuclear energy for power generation and water desalination in GCC Member States is one of the cost-effective options. The study further included general directives on the methods, steps and procedures for developing a joint nuclear energy program such as the legal and legislative aspects, the institutional infrastructures, security controls, nuclear and radioactive safety controls.

Having approved the preliminary feasibility study by the Supreme Council at the 28th session (Doha, December 2007), contacts were made with the IAEA for preparation of the Terms of reference for the detailed studies, which focused on the above aspects.

At the 29th session (Muscat, Dec. 2008), the Supreme Council stressed that the work group should accelerate completion of the terms of reference of the said detail studies in order to offer them for a bid to international specialized firms which would commence preparation of the studies, along with benefiting from the IAEA technical cooperation programs in the following projects:

First project: Planning and Development of Nuclear Energy

Second project: Enhancement of Legal Infrastructures and Safety Requirements

Third Project: Establishing a regional center for research and manpower development

The IAEA dispatched to the GCC Secretariat General the final revised Terms of Reference in February 2009. Contacts are currently being made with specialized consulting firms for quotations and the completion time of the details studies.

In the context of the IAEA technical cooperation programs, liaison officers have been designated in each Member State. The liaison officers participated in a workshop organized by the IAEA in February 2009. The activities, time schedule and the nomination of general coordinators for the above three projects were examined in that workshop.

Member States reviewed and examined the proposed Terms of Reference of the strategic plan of the GCC Atomic Energy Program and recommended some modifications for approval.

Chapter (3)

Cooperation in the Field of Human Resources

This side of the GCC process focuses on matters related to labor and laborers such as laws and regulations of civil service, social insurance, civil pension, administrative development, employment, expatriate workers, population composition, nationalization of jobs and other matters related to the GCC integration of the labor markets and laws thereof. Joint action in this field began before establishing the GCC; that was through the Executive Office of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs that was established in February 1978, in which Iraq was a member until 1990.

I. Employment of Citizens and Facilitation of their Intra-GCC Movement

Resolutions of the Supreme Council concerning employment of national work force and facilitation of their Intra-GCC movement have accorded a strategic depth to the concept of GCC nationalization and a real translation of the principles of the Economic Agreement and the requirements of the Common Market. The employment of national work force and facilitation of their Intra-GCC movement were the focus of many resolutions taken by the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Committees, which have contained important recommendations for formulating policies, plans and implementing rules that provide employment opportunities for citizens and facilitate their Intra-GCC movement.

In fulfillment of the objectives of the GCC Chart, the provisions of the Economic Agreement and the directives of the Supreme Council, the GCC Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, through their meetings within the Secretariat, or through the Council of the GCC Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, have proposed several initiatives and made great efforts to ensure the freedom of work, residence, and movement; and surmount the difficulties that prevent achievement of equality among GCC citizens. The most important

of these resolutions was the resolution of the Supreme Council (14th session, Riyadh, December, 1993) concerning equality among the GCC citizens employed by the private sector and the issuance of implementing resolutions at the GCC States level to this effect.

Pursuant to the mandate of the Supreme Council (19th session, December, 1998) to conduct a study on the employment of national man power and facilitate their Intra-GCC movement, the Consultative Commission of the Supreme Council has made recommendations in this connection that have contained some proposals for the employment of nationals. The proposals stressed that the GCC government and private agencies should go ahead in implementing the policy of substitution and reducing the number of the expatriate workers, and that private sector should be involved in developing and proposing plans and projects for nationalization of jobs and application of the rules related to granting licenses for employment of non-GCC workers, as well as raising the costs of the non-GCC labor, which would urge employers to employ national labor. The Consultative Commission has stressed the necessity of providing information on labor market in both the government and private sectors and the free business at the GCC States for all GCC nationals. The Consultative Commission has instructed the Executive Office of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs to collect, compile, exchange, and publish information on the requirements of labor market.

II. Extending the Insurance Protection to Cover the GCC Citizens Working in any Member State

For achieving Economic nationality, and pursuant to the resolutions of the Supreme Council, the Ministerial Council and the Ministerial Committees concerning employment of citizens and facilitating their movement, it is necessary to consider the possibility of providing after-service insurance protection to the GCC citizens employed by the public and private sector. The GCC States have made great efforts to facilitate the relevant procedures set

forth in the civil pension and social insurance laws and develop appropriate mechanisms for extending the umbrella of the insurance protection to cover the GCC citizens working in any Member States. As a result of those efforts, and the efforts made by the Financial and Economic Committee, the Council of the GCC Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs and the Committee of the Heads of Civil Pension and Social Insurance Departments, a recommendation to that end was submitted to the Supreme Council (25th session, Manama, December, 2004). Implementation of that recommendation was to be optional for one year effective from 1st January, 2005 and binding as of 1st January 2006. The Supreme Council has approved that law and the explanatory note thereof. Then all Member States issued their respective internal directives for implementation of that law.

III. Expatriate Workers and their Adverse Impacts on the GCC States

Given their need of expanding the infrastructure projects and the implementation of their development plans, the GCC States have realized the negative impacts of recruiting great numbers of expatriate workers and the risk of the continued dependence on them, which would cause disorder in the population composition, on the hand, and reduce employment opportunities for citizens, on the other hand. To avoid those impacts, the GCC States have sought to address the problem, at the individual level, by focusing on the nationalization of jobs and intensifying the programs of substituting the expatriate workers with national workers. At the joint level, the Ministerial Committees and the Joint Action Committees have continued making their recommendations to the Supreme Council. Many resolutions were taken in this respect, the most significant of which was the resolution of the Supreme Council (15th session, Bahrain, December, 1994) instructing the agencies, departments and institutions of the public and private sectors to take the implementation measures to limit the numbers of the expatriate workers and substitute them with national workers. In an endeavor to achieve balance in the population composition and the structure of the work force, the Supreme Council (19th session, Abu Dhabi, December, 1998) adopted

the General Framework of the GCC Population Strategy. The Supreme Council (20th session, Riyadh, November, 1999) also agreed to form a joint committee for studying the expatriate labor and the population composition at the GCC States. The said committee has developed as of mechanisms and implementation procedures, such as, inter alia, each Member State should identify percentages representing the maximum allowable limit of the non-GCC citizens in terms to the total population and the total work force, stressing on the activation of the substitution policies at each Member State and maximizing the costs of the expatriate labor. The Supreme Council (21st session, Manama, December, 2000) also adopted the mechanisms and implementation procedures developed by the committee.

IV. Civil Service and Administrative Development

For the purpose of achieving equality, and in line with the provisions of the Economic Agreement, and in the light of the recommendation of the Civil Service Ministers at the GCC States, the Supreme Council (21st session, Manama, December, 2000) approved according equal treatment to the civil employees at any GCC Member State in respect to the job benefits. All the GCC Member States have issued their respective internal rules for implementation of that resolution.

In the field of development of work at the civil service, the Secretariat established the GCC Electronic Portal of Civil Service and the institutes of public administration and administrative development in addition to the general framework of HR development, the GCC Civil Service Labor Force Planning Project and the project of developing the quality system at the government agencies

In addition, the GCC States are continuing the exchange of expertise and development of individual skills in the field of civil service through organizing relevant forums and meetings.

In the field of administrative development, and for the purpose of developing the administrative work at the public sector and utilizing the experience and potentials available at the institutes of public administration and administrative development, the officials have held several meetings and organized various training courses and workshops. Many programs are currently being organized, based on the decisions of the committee of the Directors General of the Institutes of Public Administration and Administrative Development. The most important of these programs are the following:

- The remote training program between the Institutes of Public Administration and Administrative Development at the GCC States: Implementation of the program will be at several phases (the cost of the first phase accounts for over US\$ 2 million)
- The cooperation and integration strategy between the Institutes of Public Administration and Administrative Development (Doha, December, 2003).
- The project of "Information Services in the Field of Documentation and Libraries".
- The project of preparing a trainer's database.

Chapter (4)

Joint Social Action

The joint social action includes several sides: Woman, Childhood and family; individuals of special needs and cooperation with the regional and international organizations. Efforts of cooperation and joint work are run in coordination between the Secretariat-General and the Executive Office of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, which exercises its activity according to its by-law with a view to achieving coordination, cooperation and exchange of experience. The following are the most important aspects of the joint social work within the framework of the GCC:

I. Development of Woman's Condition

The aspects of the social work have been the focus of attention of their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC States. The Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha, March, 2002) instructed its Consultative Commission to propose recommendations on the means of developing woman's position at the GCC States and assert her economic, social and familial role. The Commission has studied the subject and submitted its proposals to the Supreme Council. Proposals addressed several areas: The first was the enhancement of woman's contribution and role and enabling her active and influencing participation in the movement and development of society and maximizing her participation in the leading decision-making positions, while emphasizing the Islamic and Arab values and principles that achieve integration of the roles of man and woman. In addition to the need to continuously discuss the matters relating to woman and developing statistical and research databases that would provide support information for formulating policies and plans in the field of woman. The Commission has also stressed the role of the national supreme councils at some Member States, and called for establishing similar councils representing all agencies involved in the field of woman and family, and accelerating the formation of a coordinating committee for woman across the GCC States.

In the economic area, the Commission recommended that women should be economically enabled to enhance her social and familial role, increase her participation in the labor market, and focus on training and development of the required skills, along with improving work conditions and developing the social insurance and civil service laws, which would help increase her economic participation, and utilizing technology with a view to creating new employment opportunities. The Commission has also recommended that a joint fund be established to support woman-related projects, particularly developing nurseries and small-size projects.

In the social area, the Commission recommended improvement of the living conditions of poor women, helping her involvement in social life, protecting her from all types of violence and eradication of illiteracy among girls and women through a long-term plan as well as development of woman-related laws and regulations in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic law (shariah). In addition to increasing the awareness of woman, in general, particularly legislative and professional rights and duties as set forth in the Islamic law.

In the family area, the Commission recommended that society should be aware of the importance of family's role according to the Islamic teachings, along with improving the family living conditions through the development of the sources of income and proposing the best means for utilizing from such income. The Commission has also stressed the importance of the informative message addressed to the family, the awareness of parents and community of the adverse consequences of discrimination between children, facilitating access to new information, dissemination of knowledge and education, eradication of household illiteracy, caring for nurseries and kinder gardens, encouraging field research about family changes and constructing appropriate databases.

II. Promotion of Childhood

The promotion of childhood represented an important aspect of the Council's activities. Efforts have been made with UNICEF with a view to identifying priorities and methods for promotion of childhood. The meeting

held by the Secretariat in coordination with UNICEF recommended that a coordinating committee specialized in the field of children is to be established. The committee was composed of members representing relevant official and private institutions (Dubai, 1989).

A study on children welfare services and promotion thereof at the GCC States was also conducted in cooperation with UNICEF office in the region. The purpose of the study was to take necessary actions for the development of those services. The GCC States are inter-coordinating the cooperation efforts being made with the institutions and agencies involved in the field of children at the GCC level and the Arab and international levels and organizing relevant activities. The first conference of children entitled "Childhood is a Common Responsibility" was organized at Dubai in March 2006 in cooperation with the Administration of the Prize of Sheikha Latifah Bint Mohammed for children creativity. A mechanism is currently being developed for coordinating and organizing the activities of the councils and organizations involved in family affairs at the GCC States. The proposal submitted by a committee formed for this purpose (Doha, June, 2006) calling for establishing a common ministerial committee is still under study pending the establishment of national bodies for coordination and follow up between the agencies involved in the issues of family, woman and children at each Member State. The establishment of such national bodies will certainly enhance women's work at Each Member State, particularly in the field of coordination and cooperation between the existing women's societies, and encourage the establishment of new women societies that meet the needs of family and society.

III. Service of Individuals with Special Needs

In the field of the Service of special-needs individuals, a coordination committee was formed for this purpose. The committee convenes periodic meetings for following up the coordination and cooperation activities among Member States. In addition, several activities, financed by Thomas Cook Traveler Cheques Group, were organized through the Secretariat to support the programs and services of special-need individuals at the GCC Member

States; a portion accounting for 1% of the company's profits was deducted for the period from 1997 to 1999. An amount of SR 20,000 was allocated for supporting the GCC sport team of the special-need individuals at one of its overseas competitions, and another amount of SR 100,000 was allocated for supporting the special-need individuals at the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman, SR 50,000 each, and an amount of SR 19,000 was allocated for printing a book entitled "Basic Skills for Teaching Special-Need Individuals".

Prizes for sport activities of the special-need individuals are periodically offered in coordination with the organizing committee of the special-need individuals' sports at the GCC States (based in the Kingdom of Bahrain).

IV. Cooperation with International Organizations

Coordination among the GCC States is also made for signing international agreements, organizing external conferences related to woman at the GCC States, such as the conference entitled " Woman at the GCC States" that was held at Sweden (December 2004) and coordinating the relief efforts through establishing a coordinating commission for women's work at the GCC States.

As regards cooperation with the international organizations, coordination is currently being made with the UN High Commission for Refugees' Affairs for organizing seminars on the international relief in coordination with the Secretariat and participation of Foreign Ministries' officials, Coast Guards and Frontier Guards at the GCC States.

Chapter (5)

Joint Cultural Action

Objectives and Cultural Development Plan

Joint cultural action is based on the objectives set out in the GCC Cultural Development Plan that was adopted by the Supreme Council at its 8th session (Riyadh, 1987) and the cultural strategy which was adopted by the Supreme Council at its 29th session (Muscat, Dec. 2008) in lieu of the said plan. The strategic plan entailed several objectives that can be summed up as follows:

- Enriching the citizen's personality and building his capacities and awareness to cope with the human development
- Developing the infrastructures, given that culture is a crucial element of the nation's solidarity and civilization and developing cultural output
- Saturation with and preservation of the Arab-Islamic civilization identity, strengthening the national Islamic content and confronting the cultural spoliation attempts
- Enhancing cultural unity among Member States and fostering the cultural role of women and the civil community institutions with a view to achieving the general objectives of the strategy

The strategy included a set of oriented principles that focus on the role of the Arab Islamic culture in the cultural planning for the communities of the GCC States, the cultural development dimension, the importance of cultural participation and conceiving heritage as a spirit and inspiration, not merely inanimate texts. The principles also stressed the role of classical Arabic, the importance of coping with the age and the need for developing dialogue with the other cultures with a view to enhancing human values.

The strategy stipulated several requirements and methods to achieve it within the general strategic objectives of the comprehensive development; mainly updating the laws and enactment of legislation necessary for enhancing

the use of the Arabic language and providing the financial support to ensure success of the strategy and development of the infrastructures of the cultural production represented in constructing public libraries, theatres, cinemas, museums, publishing houses, cultural research centers and attention to the Intra-GCC cultural tourism.

Pursuant to the mechanisms of the strategy, the General Cultural Committee in April 2009, discussed the activation of this strategy in accordance with a ten-year timeframe, and this will be achieved through coordination with several relevant committees such as the Committee of Book Fairs, the Committee of Intellectual Property and Copyrights, the committee of antiquities and museums, the committee of tourist cooperation, the executive tourist committee and other permanent or interim committees that follow up relevant resolutions, discuss ideas and initiatives and make recommendations to the Ministerial Committee.

Areas of Joint Action in the Field of Culture

I. Cultural activities

Several joint activities are periodically organized at the GCC States covering creative arts and Arab calligraphy, general culture, literary creation and criticism, child's culture, administrative training the field of activation of the cultural work, theatre activities through the permanent committee of private teams, songs and other activities. The General Cultural Committee, composed of the Directors of the Cultural Departments at the GCC States and the Director of the Culture Department at the Secretariat, schedules and supervises these activities.

II. Antiquities, Museums and Folklore

The committee of the deputy ministers in charge of antiquities and museums proposes and organizes the joint activities and programs, such as:

- The issuance of a periodical bulletin about antiquities and museums at the GCC States
- Preparation of guides (directories) for museums and specialists at the GCC States
- Participation in the survey and exploration works
- Formation of joint teams for survey and exploration and training activities
- Organizing a periodic joint exhibition for antiquities
- Organizing forums, training courses and workshops
- Utilization from the international organizations and centers concerned with the training of the staff and specialists involved in antiquities and museums
- Exchanging visits of the staff and specialists involved in antiquities and museums at the GCC States
- Preparation of reference laws and regulations in the field of museums and antiquities

III. Laws and Legislation

Achievements in the field of laws and legislation related to cultural cooperation among the GCC States are the following:

- Adoption of the Common Copyright Law as a reference law
- Adoption of the common agreement between the GCC States and the organizations involved in the field of antiquities exploration as a reference agreement
- Preparation of a model law for antiquities at the GCC States
- Coordination among the GCC States with a view to adopting a common position towards accession to the international agreement on protection of cultural heritage submerged in waters, adopted by the UNISCO General Assembly as well as accession to the International Council of Museums
- Adoption of the common model for cooperation between the GCC States and the foreign organizations in the field of antiquities (1987); the model

incorporated 28 items dealing with the collective relationship with the foreign organizations involved in the exploration of antiquities. The model is for mere reference

- Issuing the " Reference Antiquities Law"

IV. General Activities

Efforts are currently being made for organizing and developing various activities (see the attached list at the end of this section), such as:

- Organizing the Book Fairs at the GCC States in coordination with Member States to ensure convenience and success thereof
- Organizing official and private participations in the Book Fairs organized within the GCC States as well as coordinating the collective participation of the GCC States in the external fairs
- Examining the adoption of the joint action formula in the field of electronic culture and e-publishing
- The Directory of the GCC Men of Letters and Authors
- Organizing an annual cultural festival for the GCC States (the idea is under study)
- Honoring GCC men of letters , authors ,artists and specialists in museums and antiquities
- Organizing external forums and like events

V. Common Publications

- The Directory of Men of Letters and Authors
- Directory of Antiquities and Museums,
- Directory of the Experts in Antiquities and Museums
- Semi-annual periodical on antiquities and museums
- The " Reference Antiquities Law"

List of Common Cultural Activities

Folklore Forum

- 1st session, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 15-17 November 1993
- 2nd session, Doha, State of Qatar, 20-22 October 1998
- 3rd session, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 24-26 December 2001

Poetry Forum

- 1st session, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 10-15 October 1992
- 2nd session, Doha, State of Qatar, 22-24 November 1993
- 3rd session, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 25-28 October 1997
- 4th session, Kuwait, 21-23 November 1998
- 5th session, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 24-26 April 2000
- 6th session, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 26-30 October 2002
- 7th session, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 18-21 April 2004

Drama Festival

- 1st session, Kuwait, 26 March-2 April 1988
- 2nd session, Doha, State of Qatar, 22-28 January 1990
- 3rd session, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 5-15 April 1993
- 4th session, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 20-27 May 1995
- 5th session, Kuwait, 27 March-4 April 1997
- 6th session, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 10-17 May 1999
- 7th session, Doha, State of Qatar, 1-8 October 2001
- 8th session, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 21-28 September 2003
- 9th session, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 4-11 November 2006
- 10th session, Kuwait, 31/03-08/04/2009

Cultural Activators Course

- 1st session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 23/2/-3/3/ 1410 AH.
- 2nd session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 5-11/5/ 1413 AH.

- 3rd session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 21-30/6 /1414 AH.
- 4th session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 13-24/10/1419 AH.
- 5th session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1-16/8/ 1421 AH.
- 6th session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 15-19/04/ 1430 AH

Children's Drawing Exhibition

- 1st Exhibition, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 21-31 December 1991
- 2nd Exhibition, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 11-17 December 1993
- 3rd Exhibition, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 10-16 November 1996
- On 29th October 1997, this activity was consolidated into the activities of the Child's Cultural Week.

The Periodic Exhibition of Creative Arts and Arabic Calligraphy

- 1st Exhibition of Creative arts, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1 April 1989
- 2nd Exhibition of Creative arts, Doha, State of Qatar, 1-7/2/ 1991
- 1st Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy, Kuwait, 21 April 1992
- 2nd Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy, Manama, Bahrain, 3/10/ 1994
- 3rd Exhibition of Creative arts, Sharjah, UAE, 14-19/11/ 1994
- 4th Exhibition of Creative arts, Kuwait, State of Kuwait, 4-13 December 1996
- 3rd Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 21-26 September 1996
- 5th Exhibition of Creative arts and Arabic Calligraphy, Doha, State of Qatar, 16-22 November 1999
- 6th Exhibition of Creative arts and Arabic Calligraphy, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 16-25 June 2001
- 7th Exhibition of Creative arts and Arabic Calligraphy, Kuwait, State of Kuwait, 17-26 December 2003
- 8th Exhibition of Creative arts and Arabic Calligraphy, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, January 1st 2006

Literary Forum

- 1st Session " Short Story", Kuwait, 16-18 January 1989
- 2nd Session " Radio and TV Drama", Abu Dhabi, UAE, 16-20 December 1991
- 3rd Session " Poetry", Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 6-8 August 1994
- 4th Session " Literary Criticism", Kuwait, 12-14 December 1995

The Child's Education Forum

- 1st session, Doha, State of Qatar, 4-7 March 1989

Intellectual Forum

- 1st session " The Role of Culture in Development", Abu Dhabi, UAE, 4-8 February 1990
- 2nd session "Culture and Information", Kuwait, 11-13 December 1994
- 3rd session " Copyrights and Adjacent Rights", Abu Dhabi, UAE, 1-3 November 1999
- 4th session " The Internet as Culture", Manama, Bahrain, 14-15 March 2006

First External Cultural Week

- Organized in Beijing, People Republic of China, 13-17 October 1997

Song Festival

- Organized at Abu Dhabi, UAE in November 2005.

The External Exhibition of Creative arts

- Organized at Rome, Italy, 1996

E-Culture Forum

- Organized at Abu Dhabi, UAE in April 2005

Tourist Identity Forum

- Organized at UAE in February 2005

Joint Periodic Exhibition for Museums

- The first exhibition was organized at Fujairah, UAE (20/11-20/12/2006)
- The second exhibition was organized at Riyadh, KSA (24/01-24/03/2009)

Honoring Innovators

- The first ceremony was organized at Sharjah, UAE (23/10/2007)

Honoring Museums and Antiquities Staff

- The first ceremony was organized at Riyadh, KSA in 2207
- The second ceremony was organized at Doha, Qatar in 2208

Chapter (6)

Environmental Cooperation

I. Policies and General Principles of Environment Protection

Recognizing the importance of the development and environment, and desiring to develop long-term solutions for the environmental problems emerging from the developments that have occurred in the GCC States, besides the poor integration between the development and environment plans, and inspired by the great similarity of the development and environmental conditions at the GCC States,

The Supreme Council (6th session, Muscat Summit, 1985) adopted the document of "The Policies and General Principles of Environment Protection at the GCC States" to be the basis for developing strategies for the future environmental activities in the GCC States. Those policies contained several principles, the most important of which are the following:

- (1) Adopting a comprehensive concept of environment, which includes all surrounding media such as water, air, land and all elements therein such as inanimate things, plants, animals, natural systems and processes and human activities, as well as developing a law based on this concept for environment protection.
- (2) Establishing and completing the legislative and coordinating bodies, supporting the executive bodies in charge of the implementation of the regulations, rules and standards of environment protection and providing the capabilities of observation and surveillance.
- (3) Taking into account the environmental considerations and making the environmental planning an integral part of the comprehensive planning in all industrial, agricultural and constructional fields, and adopting the environmental assessment of projects and subjecting their licenses to the approval of the authority in charge of environment protection.
- (4) Developing and unifying rules, legislation and standards required for the protection of environment and rationalizing the utilization of natural resources and conservation of wildlife.

- (5) Coordinating the efforts made by Member States to prevent the adverse effects of the development and industrialization projects
- (6) Observing the environmental outcome of the projects set up in other countries with foreign aids from the GCC States
- (7) Promoting the community's awareness of the environmental issues and fostering the sense of individual and collective responsibility for environment conservation.
- (8) Proving the Labor Force in charge of the environment affairs and supporting the training plans.
- (9) Compilation and exchange of regional and international information on environment and utilizing such information for the planning process.
- (10) Encouraging scientific research to identify the environmental problems and preparing a directory of the available expertise in the field of environment protection.

First Action Plan

Pursuant to those policies and principles, the Ministers in charge of environment affairs at the GCC States have adopted the first action plan that included the following:

- Surveying the environment protection bodies in order to identify their structures, organization and powers
- Diagnosing the common and similar environment problems at the GCC States
- Compiling and reviewing the environmental standards, laws and legislation at the GCC States and making recommendations for completing and unifying them
- Surveying the environment awareness programs in the various media and education at school curricula
- Compiling the researches and studies conducted by Member States and regional and international organizations, circulating such researches and studies and proposing translation of some of them.
- Compiling the specialized educational and training programs and the

implementing agencies at the GCC States, developing methods for improving such programs and utilizing them by Member States as well as proposing any required new programs.

II. Environmental Laws and Legislations

Furthering to the policies and general principles of the environment protection adopted by the Supreme Council, and supporting the efforts of the GCC States in enacting environmental laws and legislation that aim at protecting man's health from the adverse effects of water, air and soil pollution, several reference laws have been developed within the framework of the joint environmental action. The most significant of those laws are the following:

1. The General Environment Protection Law: A comprehensive framework incorporating the basic rules for environment conservation and protection. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Muscat, 1995).
2. The Common Law for the Environmental Assessment of Projects: The Law aims at observing the environmental impact of the various projects to prevent their adverse effects on environment, natural resources and development. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Muscat, 1995).
3. The Common Law for Protection of Wildlife: The Law aims at developing legislation for the protection of wildlife, both plants and animals, growing them at their habitats and rehabilitation of the environmentally affected areas. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Kuwait, 1997).
4. The Common Law for Handling Radioactive Substances: The Law aims at protecting man's health and environment from the hazards of radiation and radioactive substances and applying the acceptable limits of radiation pollution in foodstuff and animal fodders. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Kuwait, 1997).
5. The Common Law for Waste Management: The Law aims at protecting man's health and the various environmental components from the hazards of the solid and toxic waste through sound management. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Kuwait, 1997).
6. The Common Law for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals: The

Law aims at controlling the practices of the Management of Hazardous Chemicals at the GCC States. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Muscat, 2001).

7. Coordination of procedures among Member States for trans-border handling of hazardous waste for the purpose of processing, recycling or disposal. These procedures aim at enabling Member States to utilize the existing facilities at any Member State for processing or recycling of hazardous waste. These procedures were adopted by the Supreme Council in 1997.
8. The Common Law for the Management of Healthcare Waste: The law aims at developing an adequate approach for controlling the production, sorting, storage, handling, processing of healthcare waste, and disposing them in a safe manner in the GCC States. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Muscat, 2001).
9. The environmental criteria and standards for the quality of air and water and the controls thereof; the objective of these criteria and standards is to identify the pollution levels at the internal and external environment in the GCC States. These criteria and standards were adopted by the Supreme Council (25th session, Manama, 2004).
10. The Common Reference Law for Controlling the Ozone Depleting Materials: Objective of the Law is to eliminate the use of Ozone depleting materials and substituting them with safe alternatives according to Montreal Protocol and amendments thereof. The law was adopted by the Supreme Council (Abu Dhabi, 2005).

Recognizing the serious impact on environment and natural resources in GCC Member States resulting from industrial and urban development operations and the need for sustained development without prejudice to the environmental considerations, the Supreme Council (28th Session, Doha, December 2007) approved the Green Environment Initiative entailing the GCC Environment Action Pact and implementing plan thereof.

The Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, is developing programs and activities for the Green Environment Initiative within a short-term and long-term plan. Thus, the GCC States will have presented a leading integrated

model for achieving integration between comprehensive development and environment conservation. The Final Declaration of the Supreme Council (14th session, Riyadh, December 1993) stressed the importance of the joint environmental action for converging policies , unifying environment laws and legislation, enhancing national and regional capacities, training of Labor Force, raising environmental awareness among citizens and conservation of natural resources. The Final Declaration of Zayed Summit (Manama, December 2004) also reiterated that conservation of environment and its renewing natural resources and the protection of wildlife are essential factors for achieving sustained development that aims at improving the conditions and welfare of citizen at the GCC States. The Declaration has called Member States to adhere to the balanced development action.

III. GCC Disaster Control Center

Like all civil communities, GCC Member States face several dangers that threaten the lives of human beings and environment. These dangers need to be identified and managed in a manner based on modern scientific methods. Given the increased risks that surround GCC States both internally and externally, and the wars and crises which the region has witnessed over the past three decades, it is imperative for GCC States to adopt a state-of-art administrative technique so as to predict all natural risks such as earthquakes, sand storms as well as industrial risks such as explosions, leakage of hazardous materials into the atmosphere or seawater or even those risks caused by sabotage and pre-planned acts.

Hence is the importance of establishing a center for confronting such disasters and supporting decision-making in GCC States based on the state-of-art technology in this field in addition to the efficient utilization of available material and human potentials and capacities and creating appropriate tools for risk management. Therefore, the Ministerial Council, at its session held in Jeddah on 5 July 2007, decided to establish the GCC Disaster Control Center. The proposed center aims at establishing a base of researchers and specialists in the field of pre-planning for dealing with disasters (Emergency

Plan) and providing the decision-maker with the scientific facts prior, during and after the occurrence of these events in the light of which appropriate actions will be taken at the least costs and most efficient potentials then available.

The elements and components which the center depends on are as follows:

- Compilation and gathering available information on the history of past risks and the way they were treated
- Identification of risks threatening the country which may not occur within international limits such as accidents of nuclear plants, power generation plants, leakage of chemicals and hazardous materials and oil
- Assessment of potential risks of natural disasters such as rainstorms, sandstorms and regional and international wars
- Analysis of the risks that may result from pre-planning through application of mathematic modeling of simulated disasters

The Ministerial Council decided that the State of Kuwait would host the Center and that the Kingdom of Bahrain would take up presidency of this Center.

IV. The GCC Award for the Best Environmental Work

Inspired by the "General Policies and Principles of the Environment Protection" adopted by the Supreme Council (6th session, Muscat, 1985), the Ministers in charge of Environment Affairs (1994) assigned a periodical environmental Award for encouraging environmental works and individual and collective initiatives that contribute to the environment protection and conservation of its components. The Award also promotes creativity and invention, at individuals and institutions level, in the field of environment protection and development, and dissemination of education and environmental awareness among the GCC citizens. The Award includes five parts: The best environmental research, environmental awareness, environment identity, the

best educational/research institution that serves environment and the best industrial institution that adheres to the environmental standards and criteria at each Member State.

V. Environmental Awareness

In integration with the efforts the GCC States are making in the field of developing awareness programs, introducing environmental education at all education stages; including organizing forums, workshops, panels and other meetings at the national and regional levels, the GCC, in cooperation with the Joint Program Production Corporation for the GCC States and with private sector funding, has produced 30 TV episodes about various environmental topics and the environmental hazards threatening the environment of the GCC States. It's worth mentioning that the GCC States have benefited from celebrating the various Environment Days, such as the Regional Environment Day, the Arab Environment Day, the International Environment Day, the International Day for Protecting the Ozone Layer and the International Day for Biologic Diversity, in developing special programs for promoting environmental awareness. The GCC States have also included many environmental concepts in the education curricula that help individuals acquire the values, trends, skills and facts needed for understanding the complicated relationships between Man and Environment and urge individuals and society to conserve the natural resources and utilize such resources for the good of mankind, which would consequently preserve man's life and improve his living level.

Given the importance of promoting environmental awareness and education, the ministers in charge of environment affairs have agreed to organize "Environment Week" in the GCC States in February every year. The ministers have also agreed to organize an annual environment forum for youth with a view to enhance the sense of responsibility for the preservation of environment and natural resources.

VI. Cooperation with the Organizations and Economic Groupings

The GCC States cooperate with all organizations concerned with the protection of environment and the maintenance of its natural resources. The most important organizations are: the Regional Organization for Protection of Maritime Environment, the EU, the Regional Office of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) for Western Asia, the Executive Council of the Arab Ministers in charge of environment affairs, ESCWA and the secretariats of certain international agreements. There is also a continuous coordination with the Regional Organization for Protection of Maritime Environment in the activities and projects related to the protection of maritime environment, mainly cooperation and coordination in the field of constructing facilities for receiving the equilibrium waters in the GCC States and participation in the ministerial and technical meetings of the Organization.

As to the EU, many cooperation programs have been completed during the first phase of the EU-GCC Joint Work Program, such as establishing a wildlife conservatory at the city of Jubail, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, exchange of experts' visits, organizing joint workshops in the field of oil-polluted sea environment, management of hazardous waste and air pollution, in addition to the EU contribution to the financing of the advisory study on setting up reception centers for ships remnants in the GCC States and funding the drafting of the Protocol on Biologic Diversity of Sea Life in the region.

In 2007 and 2008, two meetings for the GCC-EU climate experts were convened in preparation for subsequent meetings to be held in various environmental fields pursuant to the decisions of the joint ministerial council.

VII. Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements

The GCC States have signed or accepted more than 33 regional and international agreements and conventions in the field of environment and the protection of wildlife and natural resources. The agreements on biological

diversity, protection of the ozone layer, climatic change, drought control and international trafficking in endangered species are among the agreements that have drawn the attention of the GCC States and in which the GCC States have achieved considerable success in the application of some of them. Given the importance of these agreements, the GCC States have formed a working team for each agreement to follow up the relevant developments with a view to maintaining the interests of the GCC States at both the regional and international levels. The most important agreements that were signed or accepted by the GCC States are the following:

1. Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and Montreal Protocol and amendments thereof
2. The Agreement on Conservation of Migrating Wildlife Species
3. The Convention on international trafficking in endangered species
4. Basel Convention on hazardous materials and trans-border movement thereof
5. UN Convention on Biological Diversity
6. UN Framework Agreement on Climatic Change and Kyoto Protocol
7. UN Drought Control Convention
8. Kuwait Regional Convention on Protection of Maritime Environment and protocols thereof (1987)
9. Convention on Control of Vessel-related Pollution
10. Convention on Control of Sea Pollution (London Convention 1972)
11. International Convention on Overseas Intervention (1969) and protocols thereof (1972)
12. Agreement on Civil Liability in Maritime Claims 1976
13. UN Convention on Maritime Law
14. Agreement on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damages
15. International agreement on establishing an international fund for Compensation of Oil Pollution Damages
16. PIC Agreement
17. Convention on Prohibition of Production, Use and Storage of Chemical

Weapons and Destruction thereof

18. International Agreement on whales

19. International Agreement On Plant Protection

20. Agreement on Permanent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

21. International Agreement on Wet Lands (Ramseur Agreement)

22. Agreement on the Protection of International Heritage

23. Regional Agreement on Conservation of Wildlife and Habitat thereof at
the GCC States

Chapter (7)

Cooperation in the Field of Health

Beginnings and Objectives

Cooperation in health field among the GCC States began in the mid seventies of the twentieth century when the GCC Health Ministers held informal meetings such as the one held in Geneva (16 May 1975) on the sidelines of the meetings of the General Assembly of World Health Organization. Such cooperation developed, after consultation among the concerned States, into the establishment of the "Conference of the Health Ministers of the Arab Countries in the Gulf" which held its first meeting in February 1976, and was later called "the Council of the Health Ministers of the Arab Countries in the Gulf" as of 1981 and then " The Council of the GCC Health Ministers" since 1991.

Considering the field of health as an important sector in the GCC activities, and recognizing the steps that the joint health action has achieved within the framework of coordination and cooperation, the subsequent efforts have completed achievements of the Office, benefiting from the comprehensive perspective and the political support provided by working within the framework of the GCC. In this connection, the objectives set forth in the GCC Chart and in the Economic Agreement were the basic grounds for the efforts of coordination and cooperation among the bodies concerned with health affairs in the GCC States, with a view to achieving the following objectives:

- Development of coordination and cooperation among Member States in the preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative health fields.
- Identifying the concepts of the various health affairs and the endeavor to unify them, arrange their priorities and adopt common programs.
- Opening new channels of convergence with the international experience and enhancing cooperation with the Arab and international health organizations.

- Procurement of high quality, safe and effective medicaments at appropriate prices through the program of group purchasing of medicaments and medical supplies.

Achievements in the Health Field

The joint health work in the health field has attained several achievements, which are the following:

1. According equal national treatment to GCC citizens, in respect to the provision of health services, in all Member States. That was achieved by the issuance of the Supreme Council's resolution providing for same national treatment of GCC citizens at public hospitals, clinics and health centers.
2. Facilitation of the movement of organ implantation teams across GCC States. An agreement was made between the Ministries of Health, Customs Departments and Passport Departments on a common form for entry of medical teams and on the common card borne by mobile medical teams. The Supreme Council (18th session, Kuwait, December, 1997) approved the mechanisms and procedures related to facilitation of movement and exchange of organ implantation teams among GCC States.
3. Increasing customs tariff on tobacco products from 50% to 100%. This resolution came into force in all Member States. The GCC Member States are considering to further increasing tobacco tariff to be 150%.
4. Proper disposal of medical wastes at hospitals and health centers. The Supreme Council (20th session, Riyadh, November, 1999) adopted the "Unified Law for Management of Healthcare Wastes". The Law provides for developing an effective mechanism for coordination between relevant ministries and agencies at each Member State concerning application of proper measures for the disposal of medical wastes.
5. Establishing societies for the GCC physicians and registering them at the GCC States, such as the Society of Doctors of Nose, Ear and Throat (Bahrain), Society of Cosmetologists (UAE), Society of Orthopedists (Bahrain) and Society of Ophthalmologists (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

6. Formation of a GCC Committee for Pharmaceutical Control to ensure protection of individuals and development of the control bodies with a view to procure good high-quality medicaments that are conforming to the technical conditions and the requirements of drug registration. The committee was formed for the purpose of:

- Procurement of good high-quality medicaments, conforming to the technical conditions and the requirements of drug registration
- Ensure that all imported drugs are accompanied with the required certificates.
- Supervising the destruction of drugs

To that end, "A Guide for unification of the procedures and restrictions related to the medicaments imported via the GCC ports" has been prepared. The Supreme Council approved that Guide at its 28th session (Doha, December 2007).

7. The "Food Safety Committee": This is a permanent technical committee composed of representatives of the food control bodies at the GCC States. The committee ensures safety, validity and quality of the consumer foodstuffs and that all foodstuffs imported into the GCC States conform to the safety and quality requirements and to the approved GCC standards, and accompanied with the necessary health certificates. The Supreme Council's resolution (27th session, Riyadh, December 2006) approved "The Guide for the Control of the Foodstuff Imported into the GCC States" which will be implemented in 2008.

8. Group purchasing of medicaments and medical supplies: Cooperation in this field has achieved a great success in obtaining competitive and reasonable prices from drug manufacturers. The program has urged participation of many public and private health institutions, indicating the need for future expansion of the program, which, apart from being cost-effective, represents the best approach for dealing with globalization in industry and trade.

Chapter (8)

Joint Municipal Action

With a view to achieving the GCC objectives through integration and coordination among Member States and unification of laws and rules in all areas of cooperation, namely the joint municipal action, the Ministerial Committee has identified several objectives of the joint action in this connection. Many of these objectives were actually attained as shown below:

I. Preparation of a Guide for the Preservation of the GCC Architectural Heritage

A Reference Guide for the Preservation of the GCC Architectural Heritage prepared by the State of Qatar was approved. The Guide entails developing constant policies that ensure preservation of the unique GCC architectural and historic heritage, documenting all antique and historic buildings, developing uniform mechanisms and plans for the works of maintenance and reconstruction of the antique and historic buildings. The Guide also identifies criteria for registration, classification and preservation of the architectural heritage. The Guide was approved at the 12th meeting of Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers concerned with municipal affairs.

II. A Reference Guide for the Construction Works and Systems

The Guide was prepared in the Sultanate of Oman based on information received from all Member States. The Guide was approved at the 12th meeting of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the Ministers concerned with the municipal affairs. The Guide contains general provisions outlining the objective of application, the architectural and technical requirements of buildings and those related to the uses by the individuals of special needs, the minimum spaces for rooms and shops, the interior dimensions, specifications of drainage systems for buildings and the stipulations of supervising the construction of buildings.

- III. Accelerating the performance in municipal work and removing obstacles pursuant to the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques through proposing solutions for accelerating performance and removing any difficulties that impede the process of the joint municipal action.
- IV. Establishing an Executive Office for Municipal Affairs to uphold the GCC process in the different municipal areas, particularly upgrading the level of municipal services, development of utilities, preserving the GCC architectural identity and urban environment
- V. Comprehensive Strategic Architectural Planning leading to the preparation of comprehensive architectural plans with a view to developing a comprehensive GCC strategy
- VI. As regards urban environment, the objectives that Member States seek to achieve in this respect have been identified by preparing an integrated matrix for the public transportation projects, roads and traffic engineering.
- VII. Training national cadres in the municipal field through developing an Intra-GCC municipal strategy and organizing specialized workshops in the engineering and service fields as well as the municipal support departments. In addition to free workshops, such as the workshop on electronic municipal services, the workshop on the role of the municipal action in enhancing sustainable development, the workshop on the development of municipal procedures in the public service and infrastructure safety projects
- VIII. Finalization of the final draft Reference Guide for the Municipal Fees and the Collection thereof, which was prepared by the Kingdom of Bahrain, having taken into account all the remarks and suggestions received from Member States.
- IX. Finalization of the Municipal Action Bulletin, which was prepared by the UAE. The bulletin is a documentary guide for the process of the GCC Municipal Action. The data and information contained in the bulletin are to be periodically updated.

- X. The concerned Ministerial Committee is preparing a final draft outlining the work to be completed for establishing urban observatories through coordination between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Municipality of Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah, KSA, in this connection.

- XI. Developing a perspective for the awareness and educational programs in the field of municipal action with a view to promoting awareness in this connection

- XII. Development of the service facilities at the highways between Member States by assessing the present status of those facilities and the mechanism for monitoring the services rendered at highways

- XIII. The Regulation of the GCC Municipal Award was finalized. The Award aims at encouraging the development of the municipal work in the GCC Member States.

Chapter (9)

Joint Action in the Field of Housing

Objectives

A committee composed of their Highnesses and Excellencies Ministers in charge of housing affairs undertakes planning of the joint cooperation efforts in this field. The committee held its first meeting at the premises of the Secretariat in 1983. At that meeting the committee instructed the competent authorities and the joint working groups to undertake the following:

- Unification of standards of the construction sector and building materials
- Training and exchange of experience
- Unification of the methods of classification of standards and the registration and licensing procedures for engineers
- Developing housing databases
- Maintaining the traditional architectural heritage in designing residential projects
- Giving priority in housing projects to the materials classified at the GCC States

Achievements

Over the past years, and in the light of the above, the GCC States have achieved several steps in the field of housing, the most important of which are:

- Unification of building and construction standards. A list of 52 building materials has been examined. The GCC Standardization Organization gives priority to the materials available at the GCC States.
- In the field of training, the technical education and vocational training institutions as well as the Ministries of Housing are developing mechanisms for joint cooperation and identifying the required skilled labor, particularly

in the field of construction, and promoting the training programs at the various education and training institutions with a view to fulfilling the GCC States' needs of qualified individuals in the field of housing, in general, and nationalization of jobs.

- Preparation of program of visits between officials; the Secretariat was instructed to develop a program for visits between the officials, technicians and administrative staff at the concerned authorities and prepare reports on the results of such visits.
- Classification of contractors and consulting offices, standardization of the registration and licensing procedures of engineers and consulting offices and developing an acceptable formula that can be submitted to the Ministers for approval.
- Connecting the housing databases into the world web and facilitation access thereto. The first phase of the database project has been completed, and a technical team is carrying out its duties according to a specific schedule. The second phase for developing national information databases, which will constitute a comprehensive housing information database for the GCC States, was also approved.

Within the framework of the Arab joint action, events of the 7th Arab Forum will be published in books to be distributed to Arab countries as well as the periodic Statistical Book. The Secretariat has exchanged information with the technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing. The Ministers have recommended that the Center for authentication, maintenance and repairing of Jerusalem's antiques be annexed to the Arab Organization for Culture, Education and Sciences, in addition to the participation in the preparation for the Arab regional Conference on National Housing Strategies and presentation of necessary working papers.

Chapter (10)

Joint Youth Action

Objectives

The Joint Youth Action within the framework of the GCC aims at achieving specific objectives such as:

- Achieving close relationship between the GCC citizens through organizing joint meetings
- Achieving equality between GCC citizens
- Nationalizing jobs
- Coordination of GCC positions at the international forums
- Achieving vocational development and exchange of expertise
- Encouraging studies and research in the field of youth and sports
- Cooperation with the regional and international organizations and groups
- Developing joint frameworks in the field of youth, sports and scouts
- Unification of the designations, frameworks, structures and specializations at the youth and sport administrations and institutions
- Developing a strategy for common action

Fields of the Joint Youth and Scout Activities

Joint activities in youth and scout fields occupy a significant position in the GCC process towards integration and cooperation. These activities include three main areas: Youth activities, Scout activities and Female Guide activities. The following GCC committees run these activities:

1. Committee of the Ministers of Youth and Sport: Five subcommittees branch of this committee: the Committee of Deputy Ministers and the following Technical Committees: The Youth Committee, The Leaders Training Committee, The Sport for All Committee and the Youth Hostels Committee.

2. The Committee of the Heads of Scout Societies and Organizations: two subcommittees branch of this committee: the Technical Committee and the Training, Programs and Community Development Committee
3. The Female Guides' Committee

Achievements in the Field of Joint Youth Activities

In line with the GCC objectives in the field of joint youth activities, the following achievements have been attained over the past 25 years:

(1) Joint Framework

The joint sport and youth framework that outlines the principles and grounds envisaging youth activities has been adopted. The joint scout framework sets out the implementing prospects of the common activities and the rules governing the relations between the scout societies and organizations. Scout curricula have also been adopted in all scout stages. The principle of equal treatment of all GCC citizens, which enables GCC citizens of utilizing the youth and sport services at any Member State, has also been adopted.

(2) Programs and Activities

Many meetings, festivals, exhibitions, work camps and social, scientific, scout, information and educational meetings as well as several courses, studies, research and forums are organized every year. These programs and activities are organized among GCC States on an alternative basis; some sixty activities are organized every year. Many external joint camps, exhibitions, educational festivals, scout and scientific trips and hostels trips as well as external sport participations are organized at the external representation level, in addition to the cooperation with the regional and international organizations and groups for organizing many joint activities. Completion and unification of the designations, frameworks, structures and specializations at the youth and sport administrations and institutions is currently underway, in addition to developing youth welfare strategy within the framework of the GCC Comprehensive Development Strategy.

(3) Laws and Legislation

Principles of the youth and sport activities in the GCC States (1983) were identified. The GCC has also adopted the framework of the joint youth activities as well as the implementing frameworks of the joint youth activities. Moreover, many designations, frameworks, structures and specializations at the youth and sport administrations and institutions have been unified. In addition to the legislation for encouragement of creative, inventive and gifted youth by granting them relevant patents and incentives.

(4) GCC Educational and Social Relationships

Many meetings, festivals, work camps and social, scientific, scout, information and educational meetings have been organized. Thousands of participants have participated in these activities that have an indirect influence on all categories of the GCC community.

(5) Relationships with the Arab and International Societies

GCC States have participated in many meetings and educational and scientific festivals such as Tokyo Educational Festival (1986), Scientific Inventions Exhibition (France, 1995), Educational Festival (France, 1998), the scientific visit to China, and the meeting of the GCC youth with their counterparts from other countries (Hungary, Oct. 2008).

The interest in organizing working camps and environment and community services in the Arab countries has increased; six camps were organized at Somalia (1985), Sudan (1986), Syria (1993), Egypt (1995), Lebanon (1999) and Jordan (2001). Many projects have been completed through those camps, such as afforestation, leveling of agricultural lands, building study chambers, installation of water pipelines, girls' training centers for sewing and embroidery and reconstitution of schools, scientific centers and youth facilities.

(6) Training of Cadres and Expertise

In this connection, participation in the training courses organized by the Training, Seminars and Workshops Committee during which youth activities are organized has been increased. Qualified members possessing required experience and skills have been appointed at the technical committees.

Chapter (11)

Joint Sport Action

Beginnings, Principles and Objectives

The joint sport action has been the concern of the GCC States since the first years of establishing the GCC, where Their Highnesses, Chairmen of the Olympic Committees at the GCC States held their first meeting at the headquarter of the Secretariat (Riyadh, 20-21 Rabie I, 1403 H.- 24-25 December 1983). Chairpersons of the Olympic Committees have laid down the foundations for this activity and the objectives of supporting the joint action and promoting the sport sector at the GCC States. These principles included the following:

(A) Objectives of the Joint Action in the GCC Sport Field Objectives:

1. Contribution to the achievement of the GCC basic objectives through the Olympic activities
2. Achieving coordination , cooperation and coherence between the GCC States in the sport field based on the objectives of the joint action at the GCC States
3. Developing a general strategy for the development of sport at the GCC States
4. Coordination of the efforts and unification of positions among the GCC States at the continental and international conferences and meetings
5. Raising the technical level of these games within the framework of the rules developed by the International Olympic Committee and the international federations for the various sport games

6. Encouraging the exercise of sports at the GCC States, raising their performance level and the development of these games within the rules of the GCC, the International Olympic Committee and the international federations for the various sport games and this regulation
7. Promoting the Olympic principles , inspiring the sportsmanship and maintaining the GCC sport identity
8. Supervising the organization of sport contests, competitions, championships , tournaments and conferences between Member States
9. Issuing publications and booklets on the development of sport games and distributing such publications, at largest scale, among the GCC States, and organizing conferences and forums at the GCC States for the purpose of modernization and development.
10. Encouraging sport-related scientific research.
11. Developing information policies, marketing in the sport field and development of financial resources
12. Making benefit from the specialized sport centers and medical labs and creating an effective partnership with the sports media for the purpose of developing the sport activity at the GCC States
13. making benefit from the sport training centers in the fields of training, arbitration, administration, information, marketing and the like

(B) Organizing the Joint Sport Action

I. The Board of the Chairmen of the Olympic Committees

The Board is composed of Their Highnesses and Excellencies, Chairpersons of the Olympic Committees at Member States or their representatives. The

Board is chaired by the chairman of the Olympic committee who is the president of latest ordinary session of the Supreme Council.

The Board is the supreme authority of the GCC joint sport action. There is a coordination relationship between the Board and the government institutions in charge of youth and sport affairs.

Functions of the Board are as follows:

- implement the relevant resolutions of the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council
- examine matters of the GCC sport joint action
- develop strategies and policies of the GCC sport joint action
- approve the recommendations, reports, studies and rules of the GCC sport joint action submitted by the Executive Office and the Secretariat-General
- adopt principles of cooperation with the other sport organizations
- authorize the Executive Office to formulate necessary rules and regulations for implementation of the provisions of the joint action Statute in sport filed

II. Executive Office of the Council of Chairpersons of the Olympic Committees

The Executive Office is composed of permanent members representing the Olympic Committees at the GCC States. The Office meets twice a year for preparation for the meetings of Chairmen of the Olympic Committees. The Office also holds a joint meeting with the heads of the organizing committees once every two years for coordination relating to the scheduling of the annual championships and the development of the sport activities. Functions of the committee includes: following up implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Chairmen of the GCC Olympic Committees, identification of the Olympic principles, spreading sportsmanship, maintaining the GCC sport identity, proposing incentives for encouraging

sport leaders, developing qualifying criteria, approval of the balance sheets and final accounts of the organizing committees and approving transfer of the venues of the organizing committees.

III. The Organizing Committee of Athletic Games

Desiring to develop a mechanism for organizing the various sports at the GCC States and adopt a rule for honest competition and cooperation between Member States that ensures continuation and development of such games, twenty-four committees for athletic games have been formed.

These committees are as follows:

The organizing committee of squash, the organizing committee of golf, the organizing committee of athletics, the organizing committee of bowling, the organizing committee of bicycles, the organizing committee of karate, the organizing committee of Taekwondo, the organizing committee of shooting, the organizing committee of dueling, the organizing committee of tennis, the organizing committee of swimming, the organizing committee of handicapped, the organizing committee of gymnastics, the organizing committee of snooker, the organizing committee of weight-lifting, the organizing committee of judo, the organizing committee of athletic medicine, the organizing committee of basketball, the organizing committee of volleyball, the organizing committee of football, the organizing committee of woman's sport, the organizing committee of baseball, the organizing committee of handball, the organizing committee of chivalry and racing and the organizing committee of boxing .

An organizing committee is usually composed of one representative from each federation or supervising agency at the GCC States and is accredited by the Olympic Committee at that State. The representative of the host federation chairs this committee. The Secretariat participates in the meetings of the committee. These committees endeavor to contribute to the achievement of GCC objectives in the fields of Olympic sports, rearing generations and

strengthening the brotherly relationships between the federations of the game at the GCC States, promoting the level of the game and supporting the positions of the Member Federations in the Arab, regional, continental and international fields. These committees also seek to foster the sport ties and relations between Member Federations and the various sport federations and institutions at the Arab, regional, continental and international levels, coordinate with the federations concerned with the programs and activities of that committee, compose and prepare the GCC common sport teams and achieve the objectives of the relevant Arab, continental and international federations as well as implement their rules and strengthen inter-relations.

Objectives of the organizing committee include proposing general plans for promotion and spread of the game in the GCC States, developing programs for the friendly and competitive contests, supervising the championships and contests, forming subcommittees or interim committees and formulating their regulations and identification of their functions, proposing and amending relevant rules and regulations of the game according to the applicable international laws, examining the complaints, protests and objections submitted by Member Federations and Clubs, settlement of disputes in addition to organizing championships, conferences, forums and training and arbitration courses, conducting studies and exchanging information and expertise between Member Federations in the various fields of the game. The committee also examines the proposals received from Member Federations for appropriate action, discusses and approves the administrative, technical and financial reports and the final statement for the preceding year and proposes the draft budget for the next year, in addition to other functions as set out in the committee's Rules of Procedures.

Over sixty sport activities are organized through these committees where the GCC athletes meet in the Olympic sports activities, in addition to organizing parallel sport activities at the Arabian Football Gulf Cup.

Stimulant Control in Sport Field

- o The competent authorities Member States completed all necessary arrangements for accession to UNESCO International Convention on Sport Stimulant Control .
- o Encouraging joint action among Member States especially in the field of awareness, unification of procedures and training and appropriate controls to prevent trafficking and movement of stimulants within or outside GCC Member States.
- o Establishing an internationally accredited lab, hosted by Qatar, for detecting stimulants among athletes.



SECTION FOUR

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL COOPERATION
THE CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION OF THE
SUPREME COUNCIL COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF AUDIT

Chapter (1)

Legal and Judicial Cooperation

Objectives

In fulfilling one of the important objectives set forth in the GCC Charter, i.e. developing similar laws in various fields, the GCC States have sought convergence among their laws and regulations in the different fields leading to unification of such laws. The GCC States have also achieved more convergence and similarity among them in the legislative and legal fields, drafting common laws, coordination between the judicial and legal bodies and unification of their types, levels and procedures.

The judicial and legal cooperation process was launched at the first meeting of Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice of the GCC States, that was held at the Secretariat's Headquarter in Riyadh (27-28 Safar 1403 H.- 12-13 December, 1982), where the Ministers instructed an expert committee to prepare draft common laws in the civil, commercial, personal status and penal fields based on the provisions of the Islamic law (Shariah). In principle, the Ministers have approved the proposal submitted by the Kingdom of Bahrain for setting up the Commercial Arbitration Center and authorizing an expert committee to develop Terms of Reference for the GCC agreements on the execution of rulings, and the request of legal assistance, instructing the Secretariat to prepare a legal periodical, develop programs for legal visits and requesting Member States to provide the Information Center at the Secretariat with the judicial and legal documents, studies and periodicals, stressing the need to benefit from the experiences acquired within the framework of the Arab League in the judicial and legal fields.

Achievements

The following are the most important achievements in this field over the past years:

1. The Agreement on the Execution of Rulings, Requests of Legal Assistance and Judicial Notices

In the event a legal judgment is issued at any Member State, the Agreement provides that such judgment shall be considered as if it were issued at the requested Member State. Its execution shall be final and binding at all Member States according to the simplified procedures set out in the Agreement. The same applies to the judgments of arbitrators and the execution of legal assistance such as witness hearing, receiving experts' reports, conducting inspection and taking the oath.

The Agreement was approved at the 6th meeting of Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice at the GCC States, and was adopted by the Supreme Council (16th session, Oman, 4-7 December, 1995). Then all Member States have ratified the Agreement and thus it has come into force. This agreement has contributed to the enhancement of joint efforts in the legal and judicial field.

2. Muscat Document on the GCC Common Law of Personal Status

This law is one of the basic legislation of the Islamic Law. The Law deals with matters relating to family, guardianship, will and inheritance in 282 Articles. Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice (7th Meeting, Muscat, 1996) have adopted this Law as a reference law for four years and was named "Muscat Document of the GCC Common Law of Personal Status". The Supreme Council adopted the Document (17th session, Doha, December 1996). Implementation of the Document as a reference law was extended for four years by resolution of the Supreme Council (21st session, Manama, December 2000). Implementation of the Document as a reference law was also extended for other four years by resolution of the Supreme Council (25th session, Bahrain, 20-21 December 2000) to allow Member States more time to benefit from the Law. Some Member States have used this law for preparing their own laws.

3. Kuwait Document on the GCC Common Civil Law

This law is one of the basic legislation of the Islamic Law. The Law incorporates jurisprudence rules, provisions and sources of obligations, contracts, ownership and the rights thereof in 1242 Articles. Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice have adopted this Law at their 9th meeting. The Supreme Council also adopted the Law (18th session, Kuwait, December 1997) as a reference law for four years. Implementation of the Law as a reference law was extended for four years by resolution of the Supreme Council (22nd session, Muscat, December 2001). Implementation of the Law as a reference law was also extended for other four years by resolution of the Supreme Council (26th session, UAE, December 2005) to allow Member States more time to benefit from the Law.

4. Doha Document on the GCC Common Penal Law

This law is also one of the basic legislation of the Islamic Law. The Law incorporates the general rules for punishments, precautions, castigation, blood money, and chastisements in 556 Articles. Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice have adopted this Law at their 9th meeting, and was then approved by the competent Jurisprudent Committee. The Supreme Council also adopted the Law (18th session, Kuwait, December 1997) as a reference law for four years. Implementation of the Law as a reference law was extended for four years by resolution of the Supreme Council (22nd session, Muscat, December 2001). Implementation of the Law as a reference law was also extended for other four years by resolution of the Supreme Council (26th session, Abu Dhabi, December 2005) to allow Member States more time to benefit from the Law.

5. Riyadh Document on the GCC Common Law of Penal Procedures

This law consists of (343) Articles incorporating all rules of penal procedures, including the conditions of prosecuting and expiry of the action, pursuit and investigation of crimes and collection of evidence, determining

the role of the authorities in charge of investigation, arrest and prosecution, duties of the legal officers, and public prosecutor, arrest of the accused persons, initiating investigation and trial procedures, the issuance of judgments , appeal and execution of judgments.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 12th meeting (Riyadh, 13 Rajab, 1421 H. corresponding to 10 October 2000). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 21st session (Manama, December 2000) as a reference law for four years. Then the Supreme Council decided at its 25th session (Bahrain, 8-9 Dhul Qidah 1425 H. corresponding to 20-21 December 2004) that implementation of the Law as a reference law would continue pending revision and adoption of the final version of the law. An expert committee was instructed to re-examine the document in the light of the comments of member States. The committee has made several changes and additions to that document. The new revised version was then submitted to the Ministers of Justice and then to the Supreme Council that adopted it at its 26th session (Abu Dhabi, December 2005) as a reference law for four years.

6. Abu Dhabi Document on the GCC Common Juvenile Law

The Law deals with issues of corrupted or corruptible juveniles and prescribes the necessary measures for correcting and taking care of them. The law also specifies the judicial entity responsible for trying their issues, and the punishments to be issued in the committed crimes that are different from those committed by adults.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 13th meeting (Bahrain, 7-8 Shaban, 1422 H. corresponding to 23-24 October 2001). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 22nd session (Muscat, December 2001) as a reference law for four years. Thereafter, the Supreme Council decided at its 26th session (Abu Dhabi, December 2005) that implementation of the Law as a reference law would be extended for other four years to allow Member States more time to benefit from the Law.

7. Manama Document on the Attorneys' Law

This Law regulates the practicing of law at the GCC States based on convergence or unification. The Law incorporates the conditions for attorney registration, description of the rights and duties of attorneys, the relevant discipline rules and other general provisions for practicing this profession.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice have approved that document/ Law at their 13th meeting (Bahrain, 7-8 Shaban, 1422 H. corresponding to 23-24 October 2001). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 22nd session (Muscat, December 2001) as a reference law for four years. Thereafter, the Supreme Council decided at its 26th session (Abu Dhabi, December 2005) that implementation of the Document as a reference law would be extended for other four years to allow Member States more time to benefit from the Law.

8. Manama Document on the Common Law of Civil Procedure (Proceedings)

This Law incorporates the general provisions of procedure, prosecuting procedures in civil and commercial actions, including the manners for bringing a claim, attendance/absence of opponents, rules of the session, defense, admission and intervention, contingent claims, methods of appeal, arbitration and execution of court judgments.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 13th meeting (Bahrain, 7-8 Shaban, 1422 H. corresponding to 23-24 October 2001). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 22nd session (Muscat, December 2001) as a reference law for four years. Thereafter, the Supreme Council decided at its 26th session (Abu Dhabi, December 2005) that implementation of the Document, as a reference law would continue pending revision based on comments received from Member

States. The Supreme Council decided at its 27th session (Riyadh, December 2006) approved the amended document to serve as a reference law for four years.

9. Muscat Document on the Common Evidence Law

This Law incorporates the rules of evidence in civil claims, including written proof, witness testimonies, oath, inspection and expert reports.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 13th meeting (Bahrain, 7-8 Shaban, 1422 H. corresponding to 23-24 October 2001). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 22nd session (Muscat, December 2001) as a reference law for four years. Thereafter, the Supreme Council decided at its 26th session (Abu Dhabi, December 2005) that implementation of the Document as a reference law would be extended for other four years to allow Member States more time to benefit from the Law.

10. Muscat Document on the Common Law of Corporeal Estate Registration

This Law aims at convergence and unification of the applicable rules for registration of corporeal estates at the GCC States, through the adoption of the corporeal basis for a real estate unit in authentication and registration in lieu of the personal basis related to the owner of the real estate unit.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 14th meeting (Bahrain, 9-10 Shaban, 1423 H. corresponding to 15-16 October 2002). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 23rd session (Doha, December 2002) as a reference law for four years.

Pursuant to the Supreme Council's resolution (Riyadh, 27th session, 9-10 December 2006), the said document is being revised due to the elapse of the said four years.

11. Doha Document on the Common Law of Public Notary

The Law consists of (23) dealing with the establishment of Notary Public Departments, the conditions for appointment of a notary public, designation of his functions and duties as well as definition of the terminology and general provisions.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice have approved that document/ Law at their 15th meeting (Doha, 4-5 Shaban, 1424 H. corresponding to 30 September-1 October 2003). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 23rd session (Kuwait, December 2003) as a reference law for four years. The Supreme Council (Doha, 28th session, December 2007), then decided to implement the document for reference so as to allow member States more time to use it.

12. Abu Dhabi Document on the Common Reconciliation Law

The Law aims at approximating laws and regulations of the GCC States in the field of reconciliation for unification. The Law incorporates two chapters; one chapter for the general provisions of reconciliation and conditions thereof, and the second chapter for establishing reconciliation committees.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 15th meeting (Doha, 4-5 Shaban, 1424 H. corresponding to 30 September-1 October 2003). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document/ Law at its 24th session (Kuwait, December 2003) as a reference

law for four years. The Supreme Council (Doha, 28th session, December 2007), then agreed to continue implementing this Law as a reference one pending its revision and final approval.

13. Kuwait Document on the Common Law for the Management of Minors' Property

The Law consists of 86 Articles and incorporates provisions relating to guardianship and management of the underage (juniors) property and provisions of revocation of legal competence, absence and loss.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice approved that document/ Law at their 16th meeting (Kuwait, 21 Shaban, 1424 H. corresponding to 5 October 2004). Then the Supreme Council adopted that document, at its 25th session (Manama, December 2004), as a reference law for four years.

14. Abu Dhabi Document on the Common Law for Control of Trafficking in Individuals

The Law consists of (16) Articles. The Law elucidates the concept of Trafficking in Individuals and the applicable punishments imposed on the persons involved, being natural or legal ones. The law provides for forming a committee to evaluate the situation of victims as well as another national committee for Control of Trafficking in Individuals and specifying the functions of each committee and the role of prosecution and the judicial entity in this connection. The Supreme Council adopted that document, at its 27th session (Riyadh, December 2006), as a reference law for four years.

15. Reference Model for the Agreements on Legal and Judicial Cooperation

The Model consists of 87 Articles covering all aspects of legal and judicial cooperations subject of bilateral agreements such as exchange of information,

notification of legal documents and papers and authorizations, presence of witnesses and experts, recognition and execution of the court judgments and transfer of the convicts.

Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice have approved that Model at their 15th meeting (Doha, 4-5 Shaban, 1424 H. corresponding to 30 September-1 October 2003). Then the Supreme Council adopted that Model, at its 24th session (Kuwait, December 2003), as a reference Model for the agreements made by Member States on legal and judicial cooperation.

16. Project of the Common e-network of the GCC Laws and Regulations

At their 14th meeting, Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice decided to establish a Common E-network of the laws and regulations of the GCC States, to be based at the Ministry of Justice (Kuwait), with terminals at the GCC Ministries of Justice. The Ministry of Justice (Kuwait) has thankfully completed all of phases of this project which is now available to all Member States.

17. Visits of Judicial Delegations

At their first meeting held at the headquarter of the Secretariat (Riyadh, 27-28 Safar, 1403 H. corresponding to 12-13 December 1982), Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice have adopted several programs for Intra-GCC bilateral and collective visits of judicial delegations. These programs include members of the judicial authority, assistant judges and the staff of the Ministries of Justice. All these programs have been implemented according to the scheduled time phases and programs of judicial visits have also been developed; a new program incorporating 30 bilateral visits, throughout twelve phases, for the three years (2006, 2007, and 2008) has been implemented completely.

18. Specialized Seminars

In implementation of the resolution of Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice at their 9th meeting (Doha, October 1997). A seminar was organized at Kuwait (February, 1999) on the legal and judicial information in addition to two seminars organized at Kuwait about the legal aspects of E-communication; one in November 2001 and the other in October 2002. Another seminar was also organized at Kuwait (May 2005) about the "Execution of Judgments".

In addition, a seminar entitled "Perspective in the Legal Aspects of the Integration among the GCC States" was organized at Qatar (May 2006). During the current year, a conference about family guidance in the Member States was organized in the State of Kuwait (March 2007). Another international conference titled "The Role of Arbitration in Promotion of Investment" was also organized in the State of Kuwait (March 2008). These seminars, in which participants from the competent authorities at the GCC States participate, increase exchange of expertise and information and contribute to the development of judicial cooperation.

A seminar entitled "European Arrest Warrant" was organized in the United Arab Emirates (June, 2008). The United Arab Emirates also organized a convention about the alternatives in solving conflicts and restorative justice during October, 2008.

19. Legal Bulletin

For the purpose of compiling the laws and legislation of the GCC Member States, the Legal Affairs Sector at the Secretariat General issues a quarterly bulletin since 1982. The "Legal Bulletin" compiles the laws and legislations of Member States, pursuant to the resolution of Their Excellencies, Ministers of Justice taken at their first meeting held in 12-13 December 1982. The Information Center at the Secretariat published comprehensive guide for access to the quarterly.

Cooperation between Legislative Councils of GCC Member States

In a further important historic step of the joint action, the Supreme Council at its 27th session (Riyadh, December 2006) agreed to hold periodical meetings of Al-Shura Councils and Parliaments under GCC auspices. The first meeting of Their Excellencies, Chairmen of Al-Shura Councils and Parliaments in Member States was held in Doha (21 Nov. 2007) where they laid down the grounds for joint action in this field.

Cooperation between Prosecutions, Investigation Boards and Public Prosecutors in GCC Member States

In the field of judicial and legal, Their Excellencies, Heads of Public Prosecution and Investigations Boards in Member States held periodic annual meetings and formed affiliate technical committees that seek to achieve further convergence and coordination among these boards and commissions leading to unification of rules and procedures in this connection.

In this framework a number of accomplishments have been achieved, such as, adopting direct contacts in public prosecutions and in investigation and prosecutions. A program for the public prosecutors in GCC Member States to exchange visits, organizing specialized seminars and establishing a mechanism for coordinating between the Member States delegates participating in regional and international forums and benefiting from training programs that are held in specialized centers.

Chapter (2)

Consultative Commission of the Supreme Council

Establishment, Membership and Competence

The Consultative Commission of the GCC Supreme Council was established by resolution of the Supreme Council at the 18th session (Kuwait, December 1997), due to the conviction in the need to expand the consultation ground and intensify contacts among member States. The resolution was originally based on a proposal by late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait at the 17th Summit of the Supreme Council (Doha, December 1996) for establishing a Consultative Commission to the GCC Supreme Council. The Consultative Commission is composed of members from GCC Member States that will help the Council and provide advice on matters relating to supporting the GCC process and facing the future challenges.

The ceremonial meeting for announcing the establishment of the Consultative Commission was held at the State of Kuwait (November 1998) under the auspices of His Highness, late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait. The Commission is composed of 30 members, five members from each State. Every year, the Commission elects a chairperson from the representatives of the State that preside the Supreme Council's session, and a vice-chairperson from the representatives of the State that comes next in order. The Commission examines matters referred to it by the Supreme Council only. An administrative staff reporting to the Secretariat, i.e. Office of the Consultative Commission Affairs- Muscat assists the Consultative Commission.

Directives and Achievements

Starting from the 19th session, the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to examine the following topics:

1. At the 19th session (Abu Dhabi, 1998), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study the employment of national Labor Force and facilitation of their Intra-GCC movement.
2. At the 20th session (Riyadh, 1999), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to evaluate the economic cooperation among the GCC States and submit proposals for activating the Comprehensive Development Strategy of the GCC States (2000-2025).
3. At the 21st session (Manama, 2000), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to examine the following topics in detail:
 - Education and development of curricula
 - Energy and environment
 - Water strategies
 - Scientific and technical research
4. At the 22nd session (Muscat, December 2001), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to go on examining and developing proposals for activating the Comprehensive Development Strategy of the GCC States, giving priority to the social matters, particularly those relating to youth and their welfare and the media issues set out in the strategy.
5. At the 23rd session (Doha, December 2002), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study two topics: woman and hereconomic, social and household role, and the correction of the imbalance in the population composition with a view to ensure homogeneous population.
6. At the 24th session (Kuwait, December 2003), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to evaluate the GCC process over the past 23 years, the role of private sector in enhancing the relationships among the GCC citizens and the Intra-GCC trade barriers.
7. At the 25th session (Manama, 2004), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study the phenomenon of terrorism and complete the study on evaluating the GCC process over the past 23 years.

8. At the 26th session (Abu Dhabi, 2005), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study two topics: Economic nationality and its impact on fostering GCC nationalization and the importance of economic partnership in supporting the relations of the GCC States with their neighbors. These two topics are still under study by the Commission that will make recommendations to the Supreme Council at its next session to be held in Riyadh.
9. At the 27th session (Riyadh, December 2006), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study the enhancement of the appropriate work climate of the private sector in such a way that ensures according national treatment to the companies and investments in the GCC Member States.
10. At the 28th session (Doha, December 2007), the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study the phenomenon of inflation and high prices and its social impact on GCC citizens and economies, in addition to the problem of unemployment; its reasons, effects and solution.
11. At the 29th session (Muscat, December 2008) the Supreme Council instructed the Consultative Commission to study the international financial crisis and its effect on the GCC Member States and measures that could be taken, in addition to the issue of the food and water security. These two topics are still under study and research by the Consultative Commission in its 12th session.

At the various sessions, the Supreme Council adopted all recommendations of the Consultative Commission and referred them to the competent ministerial committees, except for the recommendations on the study for evaluating the GCC process, which the Supreme Council referred to a committee of Member States and the Secretariat for consideration.

The Commission's By-laws and Work Mechanism

The Consultative Commission exercises its functions according to a mechanism compatible with its by-law and the nature of the topics assigned to it by the Supreme Council.

The Consultative Commission holds a meeting wherein it elects its chairman and vice-chairman for the new session in presence of the GCC Secretary General who conveys the Supreme Council's instruction to the Commission. Then the Commission conducts a general discussion of the topics to be examined based on the notes and information provided by the Secretariat and the members' comments. Thereafter, ad hoc committees are formed from the Commission's members; each committee examines in detail a specific topic. Committees' members prepare studies and working paper for each one topic; in certain cases assistance of experts may be sought. Then each committee drafts the Commission's comments on that topic. Some committees may need more than one meeting. After all committees have completed the draft comments, the Commission holds a general meeting for examining those comments with a view to reaching a common formula of its comments on the topics referred to it, which will then be submitted to the Supreme Council. For the purpose of enhancing the role of the Consultative Commission to efficiently contribute to enhancing the joint action, the Supreme Council (21st session, Manama) invited the chairman of the Commission to attend meetings of the Supreme Council and reply to the Council's enquiries about the Commission's comments on the topics referred to it by the Council.

Beginning from the 3rd session of the Consultative Commission, the Foreign Minister of the host State (President of the Ministerial Council) used to meet the Commission's members in order to update them about recent developments at Member States and answer questions of some members. Representatives of the Commission also hold a joint annual meeting with the Ministerial Council for reviewing the Commission's comments before submitting them to the Supreme Council.

For the purpose of evaluating and improving its performance on a constant basis, the Commission has formed a Presidency Committee; this committee coordinates the work of the Commission, examines the possibility of improving the Commission's performance and submits relevant proposals.

The Presidency Committee plays an important role in following up implementation of the Commission's recommendations and making relevant proposals in this connection. The Presidency Committee also participates in the annual joint meeting of the Ministerial Council for examining comments of the Consultative Commission.

Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC States, have showed a great deal of interest in the Consultative Commission and supported its process, which was expressed during their meetings with members of the Consultative Commission. Convinced in the role of the Consultative Commission and its experience as well as its professional and objective comments and studies, The Supreme Council (23rd session, Doha, 2002) resolved as follows:

1. Set up a committee composed of member States and the Secretariat to prepare a report on improving the current system of the Consultative Commission's work to incorporate views of the Commission and proposals of member States in this respect.
2. Approve the Headquarter of the Consultative Commission of the Supreme Council to be based at Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

The Office of the Consultative Commission Affairs has officially commenced its duties at its permanent headquarter at Muscat, Sultanate of Oman as of 1 October 2003. The Sultanate of Oman has provided the building and furnished it, too. The committee formed, for examining the improvement of the Commission's work system, has finalized its report that has incorporated some proposals. The subject was then submitted to Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC States, at their 24th Summit (Kuwait, December 2003) where they have decided to set up a committee

composed of political and legal experts from Member States and the Secretariat to develop a full comprehensive plan for improving the Commission's work system, taking into account the importance of the subject, the constitutional and legal dimensions thereof and the organizational structure of the GCC and its affiliated bodies. The plan for improving the Commission's work system is still under study by Member States.

At its 28th session (Doha, December 2007), the Supreme Council agreed to hold three periodic meetings of the Commission every year. The Council further approved the Commission's initiative concerning the matters of varied opinions or subject of controversy among Member States within the framework of the GCC joint action.

Chapter (3)

Cooperation in the Field of Auditing

Objectives

The present section of the joint action process addresses the fields related to the control of the public property in the Member States. Such control is conducted by the auditing and accounting institutions in the Member States. This includes coordination of positions among the auditing and accounting institutions in the international organizations in which these institutions are full members, such as INTOSAI, ASOSAI and ARBOSAI.

Since the establishment of the GCC, the authorities in charge of financial control and auditing have held meetings at the level of the heads of these institutions as well as the specialist technical committees with a view to achieving the objectives outlined in the GCC Charter.

Achievements

Over the past years, many achievements have been attained in this field, such as for example:

I. Draft Rules of the Supreme Audit Institutions in the GCC States

The draft rules were prepared by a technical working team specialized in audit and legal aspects. The rules contained various sections and chapters that define the basic principles of auditing, objectives, kinds and scope thereof. The draft rules also outline the functions of the audit institutions and the agencies subject to audit, definition of the general auditing rules in respect to independence, qualification and professionalism, as well as the rules of the field work, planning of the audit operations, proofs and evidences. The Draft Rules concludes with the reports in respect to the kinds of such reports, the methods of preparation, follow up, confidentiality and the opinion contained in the report.

II. Joint Training

The Common strategic plan for training the staff of the audit institutions was adopted in year 2000. The plan includes the methodology and fields of joint training through the annual training courses organized by such institutions. The number of participants in these courses has exceeded 400 trainees over the past years. The plan focuses on the specialist programs in the newest fields such as environmental control, corruption control, money laundering, E-commerce, computerization, privatization, performance control and the like. A permanent committee for training and development was formed. The committee approves, in the beginning of each year, the annual training plan incorporating three courses in the fields set out in the common strategy.

III. Train –the- Trainers Program Organized in Cooperation with INTOSAI

The program was organized by the audit institutions in the GCC Member States in coordination with the Secretariat-General and INTOSAI during the years 2004-2005. Twenty trainers were trained in this program.

IV. Strategy for Comprehensive Training of Staff engaged in Audit Institutions to obtain Professional Fellowship Certificates in Audit

At their 6th meeting (November 2007), Their Excellencies, Presidents of Audit Institutions approved the of the strategy for Comprehensive Training of Staff engaged in audit institutions to obtain professional fellowship certificates in audit with a view to improving their performance which will positively reflect on the role of the audit institutions in fulfilling their functions and objectives.

V. The GCC Competition for the Research and Studies in the Field of Auditing

The Heads of the GCC Audit Institutions (4th Meeting, Kuwait 2004) approved a competition for the studies and research in the field of auditing. The rules of the competition were amended in some of its articles in 2008 . The first competition was announced in 2006 in the following fields:

Topic (1): Financial control on money laundering

Topic (2): The challenges encountering the GCC Audit Institutions in the field of audit based on the electronic systems.

Topic (3): The role of the Audit Institutions in the control of privatization and post privatization

The Heads of the GCC Audit Institutions in the 6th Meeting (November 2007) announced the results of the competition and winners of the Award were honored. The GCC Secretariat publishes winning researches

The second competition was in 2009, in the following fields:

Topic (1): The role of the higher audit institution in evaluating methods of investing and managing public funds.

Topic (2): The role of audit on auditing quality in improving the performance of the higher audit institutions.

Topic (3): Measurement and evaluation of institutional performance in government.

VI. Technical Studies

a) A study on money laundering from the audit perspective

b) A study on environmental control from the audit perspective

The above studies were prepared by the Audit Bureau in the State of Kuwait and the General Auditing Bureau in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia respectively. These two studies contain several recommendations that enhance the role of audit institutions in controlling the adverse impacts of money laundering and the environmental implications thereof. Rules of controlling these two fields will be derived from these two studies, in addition to the Draft Rules of the Supreme Audit Institutions referred to in item "IV" above.

VII- Anti Corruption Strategy:

The heads of the Audit Institutions approved in their 7th session (October, 2008) the paper prepared by Audit Bureau the State of Qatar in "The Role of audit institutions in the field of anti- corruption".



SECTION FIVE

REGIONAL COOPERATION
AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES AND GROUPINGS

Chapter (1)

Cooperation with the Republic of Yemen

At the 22nd session (Muscat, 30-31 December 2001), the Supreme Council approved the accession of Yemen to the following GCC bodies:

- Council of the GCC Ministers of Health
- The Arab Bureau of Education for the GCC Member States
- Council of the GCC Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs
- The GCC Football Cup Tournament

At the 29th session (Muscat, December 2008), the Supreme Council approved the accession of Yemen to the following GCC bodies:

- Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).
- GCC Standardization Organization (GSO).
- GCC Accounting and Auditing organization.
- Gulf television stations.

In October 2002, an agreement was signed between the GCC and the Republic of Yemen for developing specific mechanisms for cooperation between the two sides, which includes setting up a joint working group that would propose recommendations for such cooperation. The group came up with several recommendations on the procedures of Yemen's accession to some other GCC economic organizations, such as The Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting and the GCC Standardization Organization. The two sides also agreed to organize a conference for exploring the investment opportunities at Yemen (February 2007) that would encourage GCC private sector's investments at Yemen.

At the 26th session (Abu Dhabi, December 2005), the Supreme Council resolved to hold a joint meeting between Their Highnesses and Excellencies, GCC Ministers of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Republic of Yemen for discussing Yemen's requirements for achieving minimum level of the development prevailing at the GCC States. Another meeting of the officials of the investments funds and other competent bodies at the GCC States was held for studying and evaluating the developments projects provide by Yemen, especially those relating to infrastructure, and determining the volume of the aids to be provided by the GCC States over the next ten years.

Pursuant to the above resolution, the joint meeting was held at the Secretariat's headquarter (Riyadh, 1 March 2006) where it was agreed to form a technical committee composed of the GCC Ministries of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation at Yemen in addition to the GCC Secretariat (with assistance of international financial institutions). The objective of the committee was to prepare the necessary study on identifying the developments needs and transferring such needs into specific work plans and programs according to an investment program covering the period (2006-2015), and the finance needs for that plan, which would be presented at the Donors' Meeting to be held at Sana'a for mobilizing the required resources to finance the outputs of the five-year plan (2006-2010) and the ten-year plan (2006-2015) of Yemen.

In implementation of the above, and in coordination with the GCC Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs, the aforementioned technical committee held its first meeting at the headquarter of the Secretariat-General (8-9 April, 2006) with participation of a delegation from the Republic of Yemen, headed by the Deputy-Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, representatives from the GCC Ministries of Finance, the Saudi Development Fund and the Kuwaiti Development Fund, as well as representatives from the Islamic Development Bank, OPEC Fund for International Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the GCC Secretariat General. The Technical Committee has developed a mechanism for its work

according to a specific time schedule to ensure proper arrangement for the Donors' meeting and performance of the tasks assigned to it before convening the meeting in November 2006 well in advance. Invitation is expected to be extended to the Donor countries and organizations that have previously submitted aids to Yemen or will do so in future. The meeting that is expected to provide finance for the third five-year plan of the Yemeni economy (2006-2010) will be under the auspices of the GCC States.

Chapter (2)

Economic Relations with Other Countries and Economic Groupings

One of the GCC main objectives is to achieve coordination and integration among Member States in all fields, including coordination of their policies and trade relations with the other countries and regional and international blocs and groupings with a view to enhance their negotiating positions and competitive power in the world markets as set out in the GCC Economic Agreement.

To achieve this objective, the Agreement outlines some means such as, inter alia, concluding collective economic agreements in the cases that bring about common interests to the Member States, and creating a collective negotiating power that supports the GCC negotiating position with other partners in the field of the importation and exportation of their main products. To that end:

- The Supreme Council (11th session, June 2002) adopted the conclusion of direct negotiations between the GCC States, as a single group, and other countries and economic groupings beginning with the European Union, Japan and USA.
- The Supreme Council also decided to form an expert team (Negotiating Team) to assist the Secretariat in its contacts with other countries and economic groupings on behalf of the Council. The general coordinator of negotiations is the team leader.
- The Supreme Council (7th session, November 1986) authorized the Ministerial Council to adopt the objectives and policies of cooperation with the other countries and economic groupings.

To cope with the global trend towards establishing economic blocs, given the increasing globalization and liberalization of trade and investment, the GCC States had to adopt a common GCC strategy governing their relations

with other countries and regional and international economic groupings and organizations based on these developments.

Therefore, The Supreme Council (21st session, December 2000) approved the long-term strategy of the GCC in their relations and negotiations with other countries and economic groupings.

To achieve the objective of creating a collective GCC negotiating power, the GCC shall:

- Urge Member States to support the collective action and notify other countries and international economic groupings, during bilateral meetings that the GCC States act as a single group.
- Ensure coordination among Member States in regional and international meetings before and after these meetings, and that the GCC States shall develop a mechanism which enables them to act as a single group.

Based on these principles, contacts have been initiated between the GCC States and some other countries and international groups with a view to adopt means for developing their economic and trade relations with those countries and groups. Achievements in the field of economic cooperation with those countries and international groupings can be summed up as follows:

I. Negotiations with Arab Countries

After the GCC States have agreed to implement a Common External Tariff (CET), set a deadline for the launch of the Customs Union and affirmed the desire to behave as a single group with a view to fostering cooperation ties with other Arab countries, which represent the strategic depth of the GCC States vis-à-vis the international blocs, the Ministerial Council (78th session, March 2001), based on the recommendation of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, agreed, in principle, on concluding direct negotiations between the GCC States and the major Arab trading partners leading to reciprocal tariff exemption of all goods and elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers and other taxes of similar effect.

Within this framework, an agreement was signed in 2004 for establishing a free trade area between the GCC and the Republic of Lebanon; another similar agreement was also signed in initials with the Republic of Syria and efforts are currently being made for the conclusion of this agreement. In addition, contacts are currently underway between the GCC and a number of other Arab countries for developing an appropriate mechanism for enhancing and developing economic cooperation.

II. Negotiations with the EU

When the GCC States decided to enter into direct dialogue with their trading partners with a view to developing economic arrangements or agreements, the GCC States have chosen the EU to start with, based on the resolution of the Ministerial Council (11th session, June 1984) that approved the principle of concluding direct negotiations between the GCC States, as a single group, and other countries and international economic groupings, commencing with the EU.

The first informal meeting between the GCC States and the EU was held at Bahrain (November 1984) wherein the two sides discussed areas of cooperation between them and the means for enhancing such cooperation. Then followed another informal meeting in Bahrain (March 1985).

In October 1985 a brief Ministerial Meeting was held at Luxembourg where the two sides agreed to hold high-level formal meetings to discuss the topics examined in the informal meetings. Another brief Ministerial meeting was held at Luxembourg in June 1987.

In 1987 the EU Ministerial Council authorized the European Commission to initiate negotiations with the GCC at two phases: The first phase aimed at concluding a framework agreement on cooperation between the two sides, and the second phase about trade cooperation to be initiated immediately after signing the first agreement.

In December 1987 the Supreme Council of the GCC States (8th session) agreed to initiate formal negotiations with the EU with a view to concluding an initial framework agreement on the cooperation between the two sides. The Supreme Council mandated the Ministerial Council to negotiate with the EU and sign the initial agreement. Later, the Framework Agreement between the GCC States and the EU was signed in 15 June 1988, approved by the Supreme Council at its 9th session (December 1988), and came into force in January 1990. The Supreme Council (9th session, December 1988), also mandated the Ministerial Council to issue the necessary mandate to the negotiating team to conclude formal negotiations with the EU leading to a trade agreement between the two sides. The Ministerial Council (35th session, June 1990) adopted the resolution on initiating formal trade negotiations with the EU and mandating the negotiating team to initiate these negotiations according to certain relevant directives. Having signed the Framework Agreement, relations between the GCC States and the EU took the following two tracks:

(a) Implementation of the Framework Agreement

The Framework Cooperation Agreement between the GCC States and the EU provided for setting up a joint council composed of the Foreign Ministers of both sides, which would hold annual periodical meetings. The council held nineteen meetings, the first of which was in Muscat (Sultanate of Oman) on 17 March 1990, and the last was also in Muscat in on 29 April 2009. In this meeting, the two sides agreed to expand the scope of cooperation between them to include areas such as information technology, communications, and tourism. The Ministerial Council did not meet in 1995, instead, a brief ministerial meeting at the troika level was held wherein the two sides agreed to increase cooperation between them. In addition, the two sides hold an annual meeting in New York during the meetings of the UN General Assembly.

The Framework Agreement also provided for establishing a joint cooperation committee that would assist the Joint Ministerial Council in

performing its functions. The Agreement entitled the Joint Ministerial Council to set up any subcommittees, at its discretion, to assist the Council in performing its functions. The Joint Ministerial Council, at its 2nd meeting at Luxembourg (May 1991), decided to form three working teams for cooperation in the fields of industry, environment and energy.

Within this framework agreement, three industry conferences were organized and an MOU was signed between the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) and the European Commission for developing a cooperation program in this connection. Many other forums, conferences and workshops on the various fields of mutual interests were also organized. With a view to concentrating on the negotiations for setting up an FTA, the two sides decided to reduce cooperation to the fields of energy and environment. However, in 2006, the two sides agreed to resume cooperation in all other fields.

In April 2009, the joint ministerial meeting, held in Muscat, agreed on the activation of the Framework agreement through cooperation in all areas, and added other areas to reflect the development of relations between the two sides.

(b) Trade Negotiations

Trade and economic interests of both sides require joint action to enhance their mutual relations. The GCC States which possess huge oil reserves, crucial for the EU and the entire world, are developing countries that need various products of the EU; a situation that requires both sides to increase trade between them and eliminate all trade barriers.

Therefore, Article (11) of the EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement (June 1988) provides that the objective is to encourage, develop and diversify trade between the two contracting parties to the highest possible level, and that the two sides will initiate negotiations leading to an agreement on expanding

trade according to the provisions of the Joint Declaration attached to this Agreement, and that, pending the conclusion of such trade agreement, the two contracting parties would implement the MFN principle. The Joint Declaration clarified that the objective of the trade agreement was to expand trade through taking appropriate measures for improving access of the products of either party to the other party's markets and liberalizing bilateral trade.

Having signed the cooperation agreement, trade negotiation took a track that was independent from the other areas of cooperation. The political decision by the Joint Council indicated that the objective of those negotiations was to conclude an FTA agreement. Negotiations were initiated in 1991, but were not conducted in a smooth manner until 1998 due to certain difficulties existed then.

However in 2008, due to the absence of any progress in the negotiations, and the Europeans side maintaining their previous stands, the GCC suspended negotiations, but approved the European demand to continue consultations between the two parties, until a common ground for resuming negotiations is achieved.

III. The Peoples Republic of China (PRC)

The Ministerial Council (58th session, March 1996) reaffirmed the increasingly importance of developing economic relations with China. To that end, a meeting was held, during the annual meetings of the UN General Assembly (New York) between H.E. the GCC Secretary General and H.E. the Foreign Minister of China where they agreed to hold informal meetings (rounds) to enhance the cooperation mechanism between the GCC States and PRC.

In fact, several meetings and contacts were made since 1992 between officials from the GCC Secretariat the PRC, such as organizing a conference for the private sector from both sides in Beijing where the participants

discussed topics related to the economic and industrial cooperation between the GCC States and the PRC. Several reciprocal visits between the two sides followed.

The first and second informal rounds between the two sides were relaunched in January 1997 and June 1999 respectively; that was during the two visits made to the Secretariat general by H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister of PRC. During those two visits, several issues of mutual interest were discussed as well as the economic and educational relations between the GCC States and PRC.

Other economic topics that are still examined during meetings between the two sides include:

- Energy: China's increased demand for energy and gas has opened a large scope of cooperation between the two sides in this field.
- Investment: The Chinese side has previously expressed its desire to sign an agreement on the promotion and protection of investment with the GCC States, and the two sides also intend to cooperate in the investment field, particularly the oil and gas projects.
- Trade: Developing and increasing trade between the two sides.

Within the framework of the meetings held between the two sides during the UN General Assembly (New York), a meeting was held on 14 November 2001 between a GCC delegation headed by H.E. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifah, Foreign Minister of Bahrain, President of the session of the GCC Ministerial Council, and a delegation of PRC headed by H.E. the Chinese Foreign Minister. During that meeting, the two sides discussed a number of topics of mutual interest, affirmed the deep relations between them, the need to develop such relations, and increase trade and investment between them.

In this connection, the Supreme Council (89th session, December 2003) agreed to launch FTA negotiations between the GCC States and P.R.C.

At the end of the visit made to PRC by Their Excellencies, the GCC Ministers of Finance and H.E. the Secretary General on 6 July 2004, the two sides signed a framework agreement on economic cooperation that provided for initiating FTA negotiations.

The first round of negotiations was launched at the headquarter of the GCC Secretariat General on 23-24 April 2005, then followed other rounds of negotiations and technical meetings.

The negotiations in goods and services have made progress. Both sides are preparing for a strategic dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers.

IV. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The GCC Ministerial Council (91st session, June 2004) agreed to consider the possibility of concluding a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the GCC States and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and FTA negotiations. The Framework Agreement was signed in Islamabad in August 2004.

The first round of the FTA negotiations was launched at the headquarters of the Secretariat General (Riyadh) on Monday 20 February 2006. The two sides look forward to concluding and signing this agreement at earliest possible time. Negotiations are still ongoing.

V. The Republic of India

The GCC Ministerial Council (89th session, December 2004) agreed to launch the FTA negotiations between the GCC and the Republic of India.

In August 2004, the two parties signed a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between them that included their approval of initiating the FTA negotiations.

The first round of the FTA negotiations was launched at the headquarters of the Secretariat General (Riyadh) on 21 March 2006. Several rounds of negotiations covering most aspects of the Agreement were also held.

VI. Republic of Turkey

The GCC Ministerial Council (91st session, June 2004) agreed to conclude a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the GCC States and the Republic of Turkey in preparation for initiating FTA negotiations.

The Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the GCC States and Turkey was signed in the Kingdom of Bahrain on 30 May 2005, then followed by the FTA negotiations.

In this connection, the first round of the FTA negotiations was launched at the headquarters of the Secretariat General (Riyadh) on 15 November 2005, the second round was held at Ankara 13-14 April 2006, the third round was held at Doha 26-27 February 2009, and the fourth round was held in April 2009. The two parties look forward to concluding these negotiations and signing the FTA at earliest possible time.

Moreover, in 2008, the two parties began a "strategic dialogue" on the Foreign Ministers level. The first Ministerial meeting was held in Jeddah in September 2008, and a memorandum of understanding was signed.

VII. MERCOSUR Countries

The GCC Ministerial Council (89th session, December 2003) decided to authorize the General Coordinator of Negotiations to make contacts with the MERCOSUR countries with a view to launching an economic dialogue with the group and developing a mechanism for this dialogue through a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation.

The Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the GCC States and the MERCOSUR group was signed at Brasilia on 10 May 2005, on the sidelines of the meetings of the Arab-South American Summit.

Negotiations to conclude an agreement establishing a free trade zone between the GCC and the MERCOSUR began at a meeting between experts from both sides held at the headquarters of the Secretariat on 9-10 October 2006. Other meetings were held and some of the issues concerning the FTA were accomplished.

VIII. EFTA Countries

In a meeting held between officials from the GCC Secretariat General and the EFTA Secretariat, the EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) expressed their desire to develop a declaration of principles for cooperation between the GCC and EFTA. The GCC Ministerial Council (70th session, March 1999) agreed to initiate negotiations on the aforementioned declaration of principles. The GCC Ministerial Council approved the final draft of the Declaration at its 72nd session, September 1999.

On 23 May 2000, the GCC States and the EFTA countries signed the document of cooperation that has provided for establishing a cooperation committee. The GCC Supreme Council approved that document at its 21st session, December 2000.

The Joint Cooperation Committee held two meetings where it examined the areas of cooperation set out in the Declaration of Principles and the means of implementation. In February 2006, experts from both sides held a meeting at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General (Riyadh) and discussed the mechanism for initiating FTA negotiations. The FTA negotiations commenced with a meeting of experts from both sides that was held in Geneva in June 2006. The two sides also held other meetings thereafter.

The two parties signed with initial a free trade agreement in 2008, then the final signature in Hamar, Norway in June 2009.

IX. Japan

The GCC Ministerial Council (11th session, June 1984) approved the principle of initiating direct negotiations between the GCC and other countries and international economic groupings. Japan was one of the countries with which the GCC States wanted to develop relations.

Contacts with the government of Japan for opening up an economic dialogue between the two sides began with the visit that the General Coordinator of Negotiations made to Tokyo in March 1986 wherein areas of cooperation and the means for enhancing such cooperation were discussed. Then the first round of informal talks was organized in Tokyo (1987), to be followed by three other rounds, one of which was organized in Riyadh (January 1995). During these rounds, various areas of cooperation were discussed; these included investment, technology transfer, training, energy and standards. These topics were discussed in general without proposing specific recommendations. However, pursuant to the desire of the GCC States, the Japanese side agreed, in principle, to form a working team for trade and investment, provided that the two sides should agree later on composition and work program of that team. But no action about that team has been taken so far. The previous talks with Japan led to the organization of two business forums: the first was in Tokyo (November 1994), and the second was at the Kingdom of Bahrain (November 1997). After the economic dialogue between the two sides ceased for many years, Japan expressed its desire (February 2006) to develop its economic, trade and investment relations with the GCC States and set up an FTA between the two sides. The two sides agreed to consider the possibility of concluding an FTA agreement, and experts held a meeting to discuss initiating the negotiations leading to such an agreement. The GCC-Japan FTA negotiations began with launching the first round in Tokyo, in September 2006, followed by technical expert meetings and then the second round was launched in Riyadh in January 2007.

X. Singapore

In implementation of the Resolution of the Supreme Council (26th session, December 2005) concerning studying the agreement signed with initials between the State of Qatar and Singapore, specialists of GCC Member States and Singapore held four rounds of negotiations to reach a free trade agreement between the two sides, which started at the GCC Secretariat-General, Riyadh, on 17-18 January 2007, and ended in Singapore on 28 – 31 January 2008. The agreement was signed with initials, the final signing of the agreement was made in Doha, Qatar (November 2008).

XI. Australia

The Supreme Council (26th session, December 2005) authorized the GCC negotiating team to study the results of the negotiations between UAE and Australia for establishing a Free Trade Area, and to initiate negotiations with Australia, in the light of this study and feedback from the GCC Member States, with a view to transforming it into a collective agreement between the GCC Member States and Australia. A preliminary meeting between the GCC Member States and Australia was held at the Headquarter of the Secretariat-General (Riyadh, May 2007) to discuss topics related to this agreement. Several rounds of negotiations were held, which made a huge progress towards reaching an agreement. The two sides started in 2008 preparing for a strategic dialogue between them at ministerial level.

XII. New Zealand

In view of the growing economic relations between the GCC Member States and New Zealand, and the desire of the government of New Zealand to develop such relations, the government of New Zealand requested to enter into FTA negotiations with the GCC. New Zealand's request was welcomed and approved by the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee in June 2006. Then followed two preparatory meetings between experts from the GCC and New Zealand (Riyadh, December 2006 and April 2007) wherein

the two sides discussed a mechanism for launching the GCC-New Zealand FTA negotiations and the headlines of the provisions to be incorporated in this agreement. Several rounds of negotiations were held of which the last round was in Muscat in June, 2009. Negotiations are expected to resume in the near future.

XIII. ASEAN

The GCC Ministerial Council (18th session, March 1986) agreed to make initial contacts with some Far East countries, particularly ASEAN and the Republic of Korea for considering the possibility of conducting exploratory contacts with these countries. At its 66th session, the GCC Ministerial Council, upon the recommendation by the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, agreed to begin economic dialogues with South East Asian Nations.

To that end, the GCC General Coordinator of Negotiations made a visit, in February 2000, to the ASEAN headquarters in Indonesia, where he met the ASEAN Secretary-General and discussed cooperation between the GCC and ASEAN.

The two sides held several meetings at ministerial level on the side of the United Nations' General Assembly meetings. In June 2009, the first "strategic dialogue" between the two groups was held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, where it was agreed to hold regular meetings at the ministerial level, and similar meetings at the experts' level and senior officials' level to develop cooperation. On the other hand, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two Secretariats.



Annex

The GCC and its achievements in figures

The GCC in figures

Total area:	2.67	million square kilometers
Population:	36.1	million inhabitants
Population density:	13	inhabitants per one square kilometer
GDP:	\$ 823	bn
Per capita:	\$ 22775	
Volume of foreign trade:	\$ 622	bn
Exports:	\$ 424	bn
Imports:	\$ 198	bn
Trade balance:	\$ 226	bn
Oil reserve:	484	bn barrels = 44% of world reserve
Gas reserve:	40264	bn cubic meters = 24% of world reserve

* Based on 2007 statistics, except trade (2006).

TABLE (1)

NO. OF GCC CITIZENS OWNING REAL ESTATE IN OTHER MEMBER
STATES IN 2007

Particulars	EMARATI	BAHRAINI	SAUDI	OMANI	QATARI	KUWAITI	TOTAL
U.A.E. *		287	704	123	144	855	2113
BAHRAIN	144		512	14	245	360	1275
K.S.A	9	39		0	29	283	360
OMAN	992	123	18		63	1517	2713
QATAR	52	35	48	8		39	182
KUWAIT	5	5	55	3	5		73
TOTAL	1202	489	1337	148	486	3054	6716

2005 *

TABLE (2)

TOTAL NO. OF G.C.C CITIZENS OWNING REAL ESTATE IN OTHER
MEMBER STATES UP TO 2007
(CUMUALTIVE)

Particulars	EMARATI	BAHRAINI	SAUDI	OMANI	QATARI	KUWAITI	TOTAL
U.A.E.		932	1357	1040	767	7703	11799
BAHRAIN	464		3390	126	535	5910	10425
K.S.A	75	172		31	108	3339	3725
OMAN	3749	1936	92		205	3998	9980
QATAR	103	123	91	35		61	413
KUWAIT	72	62	2577	18	23		2752
TOTAL	4463	3225	7507	1250	1638	21011	39094

TABLE(3)

TOATAL NO. OF LICENCES GRANTED TO GCC CITIZENS TO PRACTICE
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
IN OTHER MEMBER STATES
(CUMUALTIVE)

Particulars	1995	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	2744	4070	7384	8485	9784	* 9784	11083
BAHRAIN	150	260	770	991	1220	1406	1530
K.S.A	786	936	1160	1249	1323	* 1323	* 1323
OMAN	36	47	79	90	144	165	169
QATAR	34	62	148	198	199	241	239
KUWAIT	40	241	904	1246	1636	2158	2628
TOTAL	3790	5616	10445	12259	14306	15077	16972

2005*

TABLE (4)

MILLION DOLLARS

LOANS GRANTED TO GCC CITIZENS FOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN
OTHER MEMBER STATES
UP TO 2007 *

Particulars	NO. OF LOANS	LOAN VALUE
U.A.E.	7	18.11
K.S.A	72	1017.2
OMAN	6	19.50
QATAR	3	4.35
KUWAIT	3	18.82
TOTAL	91	1077.98

*Government Loans

TABLE (5)

MILLION DOLLARS

INTRA- GCC TRADE (EXPORTS)

Particulars	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	1079.8	1189.9	2633.7	2397.1	4763.7	5021.47	6186.37
BAHRAIN	426.2	428.7	731.6	774.74	1045.7	1230.27	1560.8
K.S.A	3586.1	4270.2	6215.7	8203.7	12057	15624.5	18965.5
OMAN	660.4	1003.2	1062.1	1257.4	1718.6	2356.33	3296.11
QATAR	270.4	578.4	648.09	983.13	1526.9	1861.03	2014.77
KUWAIT	232.1	306.5	488.84	489.31	518.49	879.92	879.92*
TOTAL	6255.0	7776.9	11780.0	14105.4	21630.4	26973.5	32903.5

*2006

TABLE (6)

MILLION DOLLARS

INTRA-GCC TRADE (IMPORTS)

Particulars	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	1070.1	1236.6	2023.8	2546.8	2906.8	4797.95	4855.38
BAHRAIN *	316.5	377.7	578.7	696.5	737.95	976.2	1111.8
K.S.A	752.6	1078.6	1688	2276.5	2728.8	3269.05	3824.98
OMAN	1217.6	1673.0	1826.0	3010.8	2788.8	3342.13	4821.56
QATAR	346.7	483.4	730.9	1102.6	1408.0	2159.51	3121.12
KUWAIT	753.7	851.4	1257.8	1685.5	1685.5**	2467.3	2467.3***
TOTAL	4457.2	5700.7	8105.3	11318.7	12255.9	17012.1	20202.1

* Excluding oil

** 2004

*** 2006

(TABLE (7

NO. OF STOCK COMPANIES

Particulars	1985	1995	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	-	-	39	47	80	86	99
BAHRAIN	23	35	43	43	44	46	48
K.S.A	43	70	70	73	77	86	111
OMAN	24	75	131	122	125	118	120
QATAR	10	29	29	30	32	36	40
KUWAIT	33	41	108	120	158	180	*180
TOTAL	133	250	420	435	516	552	598

*2006

TABLE (8)

NO. OF STOCK COMPANIES PERMITTED FOR G.C.C. CITIZENS TO
TRADE AND OWN

Particulars	1985	1995	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	-	-	11	20	37	48	61
BAHRAIN	16	35	43	43	44	46	48
K.S.A	3	-	60	63	66	75	111
OMAN	6	66	104	104	104	112	114
QATAR	-	3	10	10	31	35	39
KUWAIT	1	41	108	120	158	180	*180
TOTAL	26	145	336	360	440	496	553

*2006

TABLE (9)

MILLION DOLLARS

CAPITAL OF STOCK COMPANIES

Particulars	1985	1995	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	-	-	5927.8	7390.5	17533.3	22349.1	29726.7
BAHRAIN	2417.53	2161.40	3616.09	4329.5	4425.9	6098.0	6309.1
K.S.A	-	-	31296.0	34722.7	39538.7	51541.3	81943.3
OMAN	521.10	676.0	2317.0	2238.0	4351.0	2844.0	3304.0
QATAR	197.0	1246.43	3428.7	3760.8	6015.3	9954.9	13289.0
KUWAIT	2722.11	5872.10	14252	16037	16759	20628	* 20628
TOTAL	5857.74	9955.9	60837.6	68478.4	88623.2	113415.2	155200.1

*2006

TABLE (10)

MILLION DOLLARS

CAPITAL OF STOCK COMPANIES PERMITTED FOR G.C.C. CITIZENS TO
TRADE AND OWN

Particulars	1985	1995	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
U.A.E.	-	-	1452.6	2609.4	11119.3	15004.6	23787.6
BAHRAIN	2059.7	2161.4	3616.1	4329.5	4425.9	6098.0	6309.1
K.S.A	-	-	5249.0	5857.0	6354.0	41246.0	81943.3
OMAN	61.2	480.0	2163.0	2163.0	2598.0	2456.0	3296.0
QATAR	-	27.5	1127.0	1154.4	5931.9	9843.6	13206.0
KUWAIT	100.0	5872.1	14252.0	16037.0	16759.0	20628.0	*20628.0
TOTAL	2220.9	8541.0	27859.7	32150.3	47188.0	95276.1	149170.0

*2006

Table (11)

Joint projects in GCC States						
Description		1999	2000	2001	2002	2005
UAE	No.	-	-	-	801	-
	Capital	-	-	-	514.49	-
Bahrain	No.	45	42	-	62	-
	Capital	36.51	280.688	-	216.21	-
KSA	No.	72	-	-	67	130
	Capital	2025.37	-	-	4233.6	5681.32
Oman	No.	-	-	86	-	405
	Capital	-	-	-	-	196.22
Qatar	No.	33	49	58	83	106
	Capital	4.53	10.11	6.75	41.73	89.43

TABLE (12)

NO. OF GCC STANDARDS	
YEAR	.NO
1984	48
1985	50
1986	53
1987	89
1988	103
1989	120
1990	133
1991	146
1992	158
1993	166
1994	580
1995	642
1996	660
1997	977
1998	1018
1999	1018
2000	1065
2001	1065
2002	1743
2003	1754
2004	1754
2005	1817
2006	2523
2007	3790
2008	4954
2009*	5392

.Up to September 2009*

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