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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

INCLUSION OF ARABIC AMONG THE OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ITS COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Letter dated 1 October 1973 from the representatives of Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Republic, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of our Governments, we have the honour to request you to include in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session an item entitled "Inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and sub-committees".

An explanatory memorandum is attached to this letter.

(Signed) Abdellatif RAHAL (Algeria)
Salman Mohamed AL SAFFAR (Bahrain)
Abdalla Saleh ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen)
A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID (Egypt)
Abdul Karim AL-SHAIKHLY (Iraq)
Sherif Abdul Hamid SHARAF (Jordan)
Abdalla Yaccoub BISHARA (Kuwait)
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Kamel Hassan MAGHUR (Libyan Arab Republic)
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Izzeldin HAMID (Sudan)
Haissam KELANI (Syrian Arab Republic)
Rachid DRISS (Tunisia)
Ali HUMAIDAN (United Arab Emirates)
Mohamed Said AL-ATTAR (Yemen)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Arabic language has contributed in preserving and disseminating the civilization of man and his culture. It is a language which is currently spoken and used by more than 120 million people, not to mention the millions who are using it as a language of their religion. It is worth noting that Arabic is the official language of more than 18 States Members of the United Nations. In addition, it is one of the official languages of the Organization of African Unity.
2. Moreover, it is a working language of a number of the specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, FAO, WHO and the ILO.
3. The introduction of Arabic as one of the official and working languages of the United Nations will, no doubt, contribute to the effectiveness of the United Nations by communicating its work and goals to the Arabic-speaking people, thus promoting international understanding among the universal community of mankind.
