



**Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Higher Education
& Scientific Research**

 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
AND
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
REGARDING
COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria, hereinafter referred to as "Sides":

IN THE SPIRIT OF the Austrian-African cooperation initiative in Higher Education and Scientific Research as presented at the "High Level Forum Africa- Europe – Taking cooperation to the digital age" in Vienna on December 18 2018,

DESIRING to strengthen the cooperation of both countries in the fields of the higher education and scientific research,

ASPIRING to intensify the friendly and traditional relations between the Egyptian and Austrian people,

BEARING IN MIND the "Agreement between the Republic of Austria und the Arab Republic of Egypt on cooperation in the fields of Culture, Science and Education",

WELCOMING cooperation in the fields of higher education and scientific research based on the principles of mutual respect and partnership,

PURSUANT to the laws and regulations in force in both countries of the participants,

have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1

- (1) The Sides will support cooperative activities in the field of science and research on the basis of mutual benefit based on national priorities and in accordance with national laws.
- (2) The Sides will encourage the development of direct scientific and technological contacts between their institutions of higher education, the Academies of Sciences and their agencies and centres for scientific and technological research.
- (3) The Sides will encourage the participation of scientists and experts in joint projects in the framework of relevant national, EU and international programmes in conformity with their respective national laws.

Paragraph 2

The cooperation provided for in Paragraph 1 will especially comprise the following forms:

- a) Exchange of scientists, researchers and experts within bilateral scientific and technological projects approved by the Sides;
- b) Exchange of information on scientific and technological activities, documentation, publications and policy papers pertaining to science and technology;
- c) Realisation and support of bilateral scientific events;
- d) Additional forms of cooperative activities upon mutual arrangement of the Sides.
- e) Both Sides welcome the project idea of the European University Egypt (under review) including the possible cooperation in fields of mutual interest of Egyptian and Austrian institutions of higher education, which choose their cooperation partners in their autonomy according to their respective academic profiles and internationalization strategies.

Paragraph 3

- (1) Both Sides welcome the participation of Egyptian and autonomous Austrian institutions of higher education and research within the new cooperation initiative in higher education and research aiming at strengthening Austrian-African academic networks and research partnerships, as presented at a side event of the "High Level Forum Africa-Europe – Taking cooperation to the digital age" in Vienna on 18 December 2018.
- (2) Both Sides express their interest in this initiative and will encourage their relevant institutions to join a network of higher education and research institutions to be established as part of this initiative.
- (3) Both Sides encourage the relevant institutions of the respective countries to participate in the calls launched in the framework of the Austrian-African cooperation initiative in Higher Education and Scientific Research.

- (4) Through this network, both Sides encourage and facilitate cooperation between academic institutions, thereby enhancing sustainable development and initiating research projects of mutual interest.
- (5) Both Sides approve of the network acting as a platform of continuous discussions.

Paragraph 4

- (1) According to this Memorandum no financial transactions between the Sides are foreseen.
- (2) For joint projects under Paragraph 2 (a) each Side will cover travel costs for outgoing and accommodation costs for incoming personnel; each Side will provide support to incoming personnel in finding adequate housing, if needed.
- (3) Financial support for bilateral scientific events under Paragraph 2 (c) as well as possible other forms of cooperation under Paragraph 2 (d) is a matter for the Joint Commission for cooperation under Paragraph 5.
- (4) The sending Sides assure that outgoing personnel is sufficiently insured for health.

Paragraph 5

- (1) For the implementation of this Memorandum the Sides will establish a Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation in Science and Research hereinafter referred to as Joint Commission.
- (2) The Joint Commission will consist of six members, three on each side, nominated by the Ministers in charge of science and research.
- (3) The main tasks of the Joint Commission will be:
 - a. Consultations on basic questions of the scientific and technological cooperation;
 - b. Decision on a multiannual Work Programme and discussion of and decision-taking on the fields and forms of cooperative activities under Paragraph 2. This pertains especially to the calls for proposals for bilateral scientific and technological cooperation projects and the evaluation, selection and approval of these project proposals;
 - c. Monitoring of scientific and technological cooperation under this Memorandum;
 - d. Settlement of any possible dispute arising from this Memorandum;
 - e. Inviting experts or setting up dedicated Working Groups for scientific areas of bilateral affairs in Higher Education, Science and Research.
- (4) The Joint Commission will meet alternately in Egypt and in Austria at a date set by both Sides, usually once every two years.
- (5) The working language of the Joint Commission will be English.

Paragraph 6

Issues pertaining to intellectual property rights arising from cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the domestic laws of the respective Sides as well as international agreements on intellectual property rights which are applicable to both the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Austria.

Paragraph 7

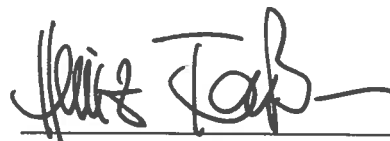
- (1) This Memorandum takes effect from the date of signature and will remain effective for a period of five years. It will subsequently be extended automatically unless a written notice to cancel the Memorandum has been given by either Side six months in advance.
- (2) This Memorandum of Understanding may be changed by mutual consent of the Sides in written form.
- (3) Each Side may cancel this Memorandum in writing at any time. The cancellation will be effective six months from the date of receipt of the notification of the cancellation.
- (4) Joint activities based on this Memorandum will not be affected by the cancellation of this Memorandum.
- (5) This Memorandum will not create any legal and financial obligations under national or international law.

Signed in Vienna on December 17, 2018, in two original copies in the English language.



Khaled ABDEL GHAFAR

Minister of Higher Education and
Scientific Research
of the Arab Republic of Egypt



Heinz FASSMANN

Federal Minister of Education,
Science and Research
of the Republic of Austria