FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARAB COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (ACSS)

BEIRUT, 12 OCTOBER 2010: In its session held on Wednesday 6th October 2010, the Lebanese Cabinet of Ministers approved the registration of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences as a regional institution to be based in Beirut.

The process of establishing the ACSS has been pursued over the last three years by a group of Arab social scientists representing a number of disciplines and countries. It is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of research and knowledge in all social science disciplines and to providing support to individual researchers and institutions in the Arab countries and to scholars in the Diaspora who are committed to their Arab societies. The ACSS hopes to contribute to the generation and validation of high quality social science research, and to enlarge the scope of public debate on critical issues that challenge Arab societies. It also seeks to enhance the status of social sciences in Arab public life and consolidate their role in rationalizing public policies in Arab societies.

The ACSS is guided by a Board of Directors and a Managing Director supported by a secretariat. The General Assembly elected its first Board of Directors comprising Rahma Bourqia, Chairperson; Ahmed Beydoun, Vice Chair and representative before the Lebanese government; Karim Makdissi, treasurer; and Ebtissam Al Kitbi, Ahmed Galal, Eileen Kuttab, Ragui Assaad, Raufa Al Sharki, Seteney Shami, Abdel-Karim Barghouti, Abdel Nasser Djabi, Amr Hamzawi and Mustafa Hamarneh, members. Seteney Shami has been elected Founding Managing Director for the transition stage. The members represent the following Arab countries: Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. The ACSS will end its foundation phase and enter into full-fledged operation when it appoints next month a managing director to take over the responsibilities of the ACSS. The new official will form his/her team and present a plan of action to the board for discussion and approval.

The Board, its chairperson and members are pleased to extend their gratitude to the Lebanese Council of Ministers for approving the establishment of the Council in Lebanon. By so doing, the Lebanese government has added a new intellectual landmark and a fresh cell for knowledge production in the Lebanese capital. In particular, they wish to thank Mr. Ziad Baroud, attorney at law and minister of interior for his personal interest in the different stages of the birth and constitution of the Council and his personal keenness to facilitate the procedures of its establishment out of recognition of the importance of this step.

The Board would also like to thank Mohamed Farid Matar, attorney at law who volunteered, out of friendship and dedication to constructive initiatives, to adopt the file of the ACSS and oversee, with his colleagues, different aspects of the registration of the ACSS

To all the above and all individuals and institutions that supported the ACSS, the Board Chair and members extend their thanks and appreciation and hope to live up to their expectations.

The Arab Council for the Social Sciences is a regional, independent non-profit organization headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon and working across the Arab region as well as globally. The ACSS structure includes a General Assembly, an elected Board of Trustees, and a Secretariat. The ACSS is dedicated to strengthening social science research and knowledge production among individuals and academic/research institutions in the Arab region.

Beirut 12 October 2010-10-14

Rahma Bourqia, Chairperson