Introduction
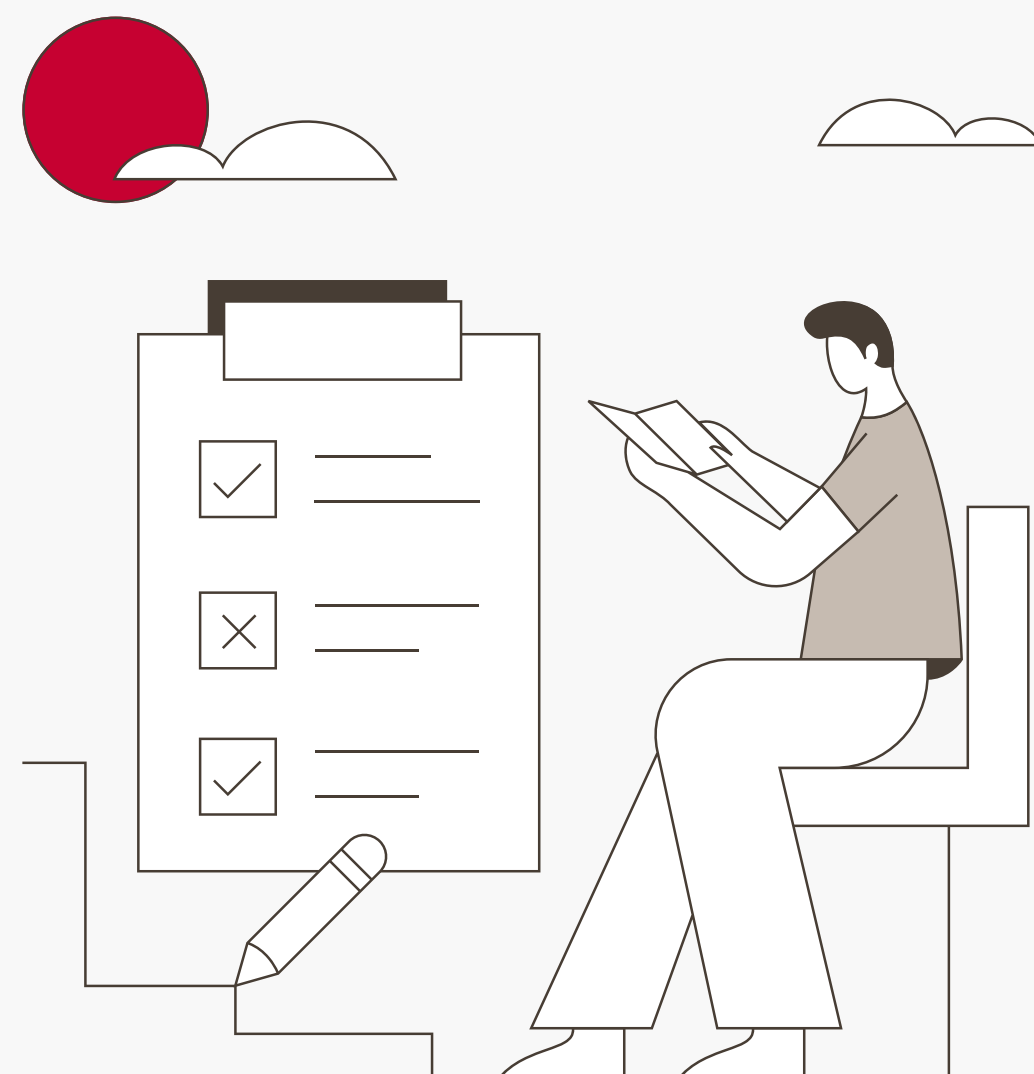
As part of the AUF's process of standardizing and expanding its Regional Rectors' Conferences (C2R), the Conference of Rectors in the Middle East (C2R Middle East) has succeeded to CONFREMO. this Conference brings together 54 Middle Eastern universities represented by rectors, presidents and directors, members of the AUF in the Middle East.

C2R are exchange and consultation bodies which role consists in gathering the heads of AUF member institutions to act as a force of proposal for developing the scientific Francophonie worldwide.

Objectives

- Strengthen and promote cooperation between its universities as well as links with other national, regional and international conferences.

- Promote scientific Francophonie at regional and international level.

- Promote dialogue and collective reflection on the core missions of universities, with particular attention to issues of institutional governance.

- Enhance the visibility of member universities at both regional and international levels.

Composition

C2R Middle East

A General Conference bringing together rectors, university presidents, and directors of member institutions.

A governing bureau consisting of a President, three Vice Presidents, and a Secretary General.

The Bureau, elected for a two-year term, is responsible for guiding, coordinating, and directing the work of the Conference, ensuring the implementation of all actions and decisions adopted by the Assembly.

CURRENT BUREAU

- *President : Father Salim Daccache, Rector of Saint Joseph University of Beirut (Lebanon)*
- *Vice-Presidents :*
  - *Ms. Alyaa Abbas Al-Attar, President of Northern Technical University (Iraq)*
  - *Mr. Abdel Nasser Zaïd, President of An-Najah National University (Palestine)*
  - *Ms. Ghada Farouk Hassan, Vice-president of Ain Shams University (Egypt)*
- *Secretary General: Mr. Jean-Noël Baléo, AUF Middle East Regional Director*

4 thematic committees

Research

Internationalization

Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Mediation and conflict resolution

Annual meetings

CONFREMO General Assemblies

1st   University of Aleppo (Syria) – 2007

2nd   Saint Joseph University of Beirut (Lebanon) – 2008

3rd   University of Alexandria (Egypt) – 2009

4th   Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (Lebanon) – 2010

5th   University of Balamand and Saint Joseph
University of Beirut (Lebanon) – 2011

6th   La Sagesse University (Lebanon) – 2013

7th   Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (Lebanon) – 2014

8th   Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) – 2015

9th   University of Alexandria (Egypt) – 2016

10th   University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (Lebanon) – 2017

11th   Islamic University of Lebanon – 2018

12th   Université d'Alexandrie (Égypte) – 2019

13th   En ligne en partenariat avec l'Université de Chypre – 2021

14th   La Sagesse University (Lebanon) – 2022

C2R Middle East General Conferences

1st   Qatar University – 2023

2nd   University of Sharjah – 2024

Annual Activities

An annual general conference

A General Conference that offers members an opportunity to engage in dialogue, exchange experiences, and share best practices on the key issues and challenges facing universities in the region.

A strategic support for members

A range of activities, training sessions, conferences, and workshops primarily designed for its Rectors, focusing on topics that address their specific needs.

A look back at key activities

C2R | **AUF**
MOYEN-ORIENT

July 2007
Seminar on« University Gouvernance»
◉ *Syria*

October 2008
Seminar on « Research in the Middle East and the Mediterranean
◉ *Lebanon*

March 2009
Séminaire « Réforme LMD, enjeux et perspectives pour l'harmonisation des systèmes universitaires »
◉ *Syria*

June 2009
Conference on « University-Business Interface in the Middle East: Structures and Perspectives »
◉ *Egypt*

June 2010
Seminar on University and its Impacts on the Economy»
◉ *Lebanon*

November 2011
Seminar on « Universities in the Era of Restructuring »
On the sidelines of the 5th GA
◉ *Lebanon*

November 2013
Seminar on « the Economic and Financial Situation and Outlook in the Middle East »
◉ *Lebanon*

October 2017
Panel on « the Culture of Entrepreneurship and the Link Between Universities and Businesses »
on the sidelines of the 10th GA
◉ *Lebanon*

April 2017
Seminar on « Monitoring and Development of International Scientific Projects »
◉ *Lebanon*

November 2016
Workshop on « Research Governance: Structuring and Funding »
on the sidelines of the 9th GA
◉ *Egypt*

May 2016
Conference on « Quality and Evaluation in the Service of Higher Education »
◉ *Egypt*

November 2015
Workshop on « Quality Processes in Higher Education »
on the sidelines of the 8th GA
◉ *United Arab Emirates*

November 2015
Seminar on « he New Challenges of Francophonie »
on the sidelines of the 8th GA
◉ *United Arab Emirates*

January 2015
Seminar on « Internationalization of Universities: Opportunities and Challenges »
on the sidelines of the 7th GA
◉ *Lebanon*

October 2017
Conference on « Digital Governance »
◉ *Lebanon*

October 2018
Scientific day on « Harnessing Excellence and Innovation in 21st-Century Teaching and Learning »
◉ *Lebanon*

December 2019
Scientific day on « What Digital Strategy for Universities? »
◉ *Egypt*

July 2020
Regional entrepreneurship competition for students of member universities
◉ *Online*

April 2021
Webinar on « University Governance and Digitalization in Times of Crisis»
◉ *Online*

September 2021
Workshop on « The Entrepreneurial University »
on the sidelines of the 13th GA
◉ *Online*

November 2022
Workshops on « the Consequences of the AI Revolution, the Production of Knowledge in French, Digital Governance, and Leadership »
on the sidelines of the 14th GA
◉ *Lebanon*

A look back at key activities

C2R MOYEN-ORIENT | AUF

May 2023
Webinar on « University Rankings: Overview, Principles, and Implications »
by the Internationalization committee
📍 Online

June 2023
Establishment of an Electronic Directory of Francophone Researchers and Journals in the Middle East
by the Research Committee

September 2023
Workshop on « Developing a Quality Culture: Practices and Lessons Learned »
in partnership with the Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS)
📍 Online

November 2023
Panel on « the Evaluation Methods for Faculty Researchers within the Scientific Francophonie »
on the sidelines of the 1st C2R General Conference
📍 Qatar

November 2023
Panel on « the Impact of the AI Revolution on University Professions and Curricula »
on the sidelines of the 1st C2R General Conference
📍 Qatar

October 2024
Mapping of Mediation, Peace, and Human Rights Centers at Member Universities
by the Mediation and conflict management committee

May 2025
Webinar on « Quality Assurance Standards and Their Alignment with the Strategic Plan »
by the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee
📍 Online

May 2025
Webinar on « Bridging Knowledge – Toward New Dynamics of Multidisciplinary Collaboration »
by the Research Committee
📍 Online

February 2025
Panel on « Scientific Francophonie and French Language in the Middle East »
on the sidelines of the 2nd C2R General Conference
📍 United Arab Emirates

February 2025
Panel on « Employability, Professional Integration, and the Inclusion of Skills in University Curricula »
on the sidelines of the 2nd C2R General Conference
📍 United Arab Emirates

December 2024
Webinar on the Indexing of Francophone Journals
by the Research Committee
📍 Online

November 2024
Introductory Webinar on Mediation for Presidents of C2R Member Universities
by the Mediation and conflict management committee
📍 Online

June 2025
Webinar on « Stakeholder Engagement in an Internal Quality Assurance Process »
by the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee
📍 Online

Member institutions

C2R | AUF
MOYEN-ORIENT

CYPRUS (1 member)

- University of Cyprus

DJIBOUTI (2 members)

- Center for Scientific Studies and Research of Djibouti
- University of Djibouti

EGYPT (12 members)

- Ain Shams University
- University of Alexandria
- Cairo University
- French University in Egypt
- Helwan University
- Mansoura University
- Senghor University
- Damanhour University
- Tanta University
- Matrouh University
- EJUST University
- Al-Azhar University

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (2 members)

- Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi
- University of Sharjah

IRAQ (3 members)

- University of Mosul
- Northern Technical University
- American University of Iraq – Baghdad

IRAN (1 member)

- University of Tehran

JORDAN (2 members)

- University of Jordan
- Yarmouk University

LEBANON (16 members)

- University of Arts, Sciences and Technology in Lebanon
- National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon
- ESA Business School

LEBANON (continued)

- French Institute of the Near East
- Antonine University
- Beirut Arab University
- University of Balamand
- Islamic University of Lebanon
- Jinan University
- La Sagesse University
- Lebanese University
- Lebanese Canadian University
- Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
- Saint Joseph University of Beirut
- Lebanese-French University of Technology and Applied Sciences
- Holy Family University

PALESTINE (3 members)

- Al Aqsa University
- Birzeit University
- An-Najah National University

QATAR (2 members)

- Qatar University
- Lusail University

SUDAN (5 members)

- University of Kordofan
- University of Gezira
- Sudan University of Science and Technology
- University of Khartoum
- Al-Neelain University

SYRIA (4 members)

- Homs University
- University of Aleppo
- Damascus University
- Latakia University

YEMEN (1 member)
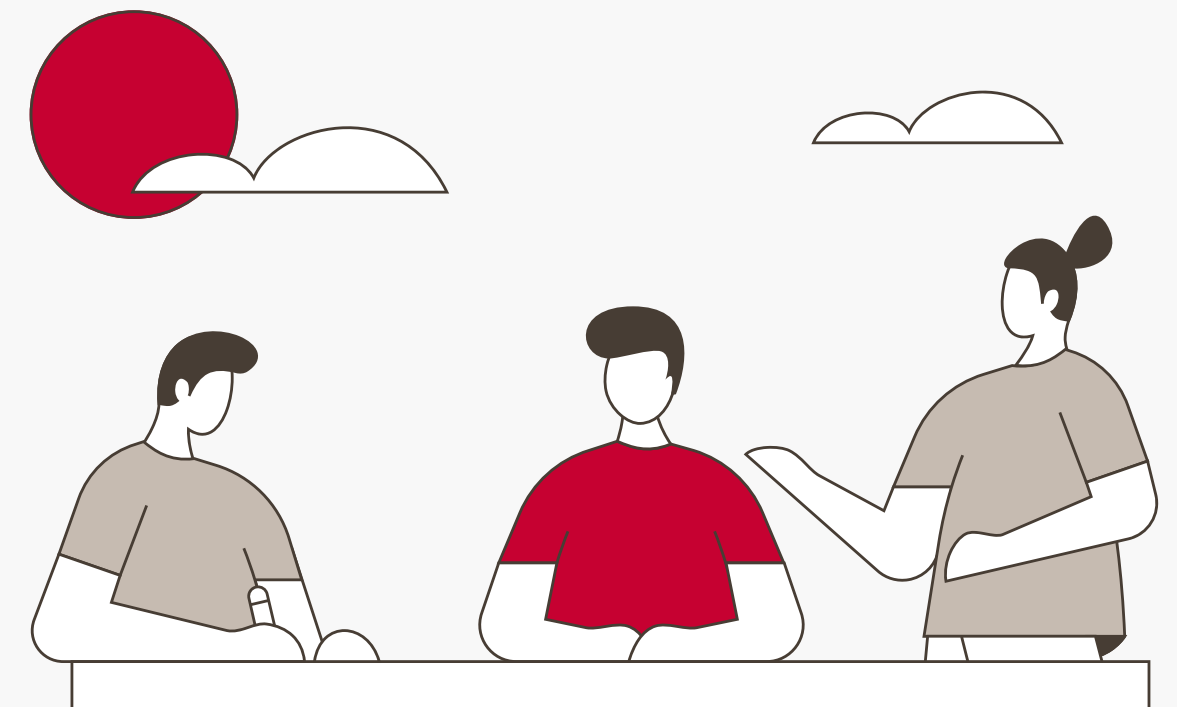
- Sanaa University

Being member of the C2R

Being member of the C2R means :

- Represented at national, regional, and international conferences

- Actively contribute to discussions and reflections on the core missions of universities

- Share experiences and best practices on various issues and challenges in higher education

- Develop partnerships and networks among higher education institutions at the regional and global levels

Want to join? Contact us by email

C2R-MO@auf.org

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