

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)/CHEA International Quality
Group (CIQG)
And
Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE)
November 16, 2025

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a strategic partnership between the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA/CIQG) and the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE). The Parties agree to collaborate through the CHEA–ANQAHE Gateway to advance shared objectives in quality assurance, recognition, membership development, and policy dialogue in the Arab region. The Gateway will serve as a co-branded platform for cooperation while maintaining CHEA’s leadership in recognition and policy direction and ANQAHE’s leadership in regional implementation and outreach.

2. Principles of Collaboration

- 2.1 Mutual Respect and Autonomy: Each Party maintains its legal identity, governance, and independent functions. CHEA/CIQG retains leadership in recognition, membership, and global policy alignment, while ANQAHE leads regional engagement, communication, and implementation.
- 2.2 Transparency and Accountability: All activities will be planned jointly, with mutually agreed timelines, deliverables, and progress reporting.
- 2.3 Complementary Roles: CHEA/CIQG will provide strategic direction, recognition expertise, and access to global policy forums (UNESCO, World Bank), while ANQAHE will coordinate regional implementation, logistics, translation, and communication.
- 2.4 Non-Regulatory and Non-Endorsement: The Gateway will not act as a regulatory or accrediting authority. It will facilitate collaboration and learning without implying endorsement by either Party.
- 2.5 Strategic Collaboration with INQAAHE: CHEA/CIQG may engage INQAAHE in selected global activities, such as convening forums and producing joint policy briefs. Such collaboration will complement, not replace, CHEA’s leadership of the Gateway model.

3. Governance and Oversight

A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will oversee the Gateway. The JSC will be co-led by two senior representatives—one appointed by CHEA/CIQG and one by ANQAHE—and may include up to three additional members from each Party. It will meet quarterly to review progress, approve deliverables, and coordinate communication. The Committee will report to the CHEA and the ANQAHE Presidents. CHEA retains final oversight for recognition and membership-related matters.

4. Areas of Cooperation and Deliverables

4.1 Regional Quality Mapping

4.1.1. ANQAHE will lead the preparation of a regional QA landscape map, identifying active agencies, frameworks, and cross-border activities.

4.1.2 CHEA/CIQG will provide methodological guidance and review final outputs before publication.

4.2 Recognition and Standards

4.2.1 CHEA will lead all recognition processes of regional accrediting agencies applying for CHEA recognition.

4.2.2 ANQAHE may support CHEA's review process by facilitating introductions, sharing regional expertise, or nominating peer reviewers, without influencing CHEA's recognition standards or decisions.

4.3 Membership Development

4.3.1 ANQAHE will promote CHEA/CIQG membership opportunities within the Arab region.

4.3.2 CHEA/CIQG will provide materials and guidance to support outreach.

4.3.3 Targets and outcomes will be jointly reviewed annually by the JSC.

4.4 Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

4.4.1 The Parties will co-host an annual CHEA–ANQAHE Forum on cross-border quality assurance and recognition.

4.4.2 They will co-author at least one bilingual (Arabic/English) policy brief each year, focusing on recognition, student protection, or institutional autonomy.

4.4.3 Both Parties will engage with UNESCO, and the World Bank to advance shared global quality goals.

4.5 Capacity Building and Events

4.5.1 ANQAHE will organize two to three webinars annually on emerging topics (AI in QA, micro-credentials, cross-border QA).

4.5.2 CHEA will provide content input and expert participation.

4.5.3 A joint 2026 Forum will mark the formal launch of the CHEA–ANQAHE Gateway.

5. Implementation Timeline

5.1 Months 0–2: Sign MOU, establish Joint Steering Committee, and launch co-branded web landing page (Arabic/English).

5.2 Months 3–4: Complete QA landscape map and shortlist regional accreditors for potential CHEA recognition.

5.3 Months 5–6: Conduct first webinar and prepare draft policy brief.

5.4 Months 7–9: Conduct second webinar, begin membership outreach, and identify recognition candidates.

5.5 Months 10–12: Finalize the policy brief, conduct the third webinar, and announce plans for the 2026 Forum.

6. Communication and Branding

All activities under this MOU will be co-branded as 'CHEA–ANQAHE Gateway' in Arabic and English. Both Parties must jointly approve public communications. Neither Party may use the other's logo or name in marketing, fundraising, or policy statements without written consent. The Gateway will be presented as a collaborative initiative — non-regulatory and non-endorsement.

7. Duration, Review, and Legal Status

This MOU is valid for three (3) years from the date of signing and may be renewed by mutual consent. The Joint Steering Committee will conduct annual reviews to assess progress and update deliverables. Either Party may terminate this MOU with ninety (90) days' written notice. This MOU is not legally binding and does not create enforceable rights or obligations; it reflects a good-faith commitment to cooperation.

8. Confidentiality and Dispute Resolution

All information, drafts, and discussions shared under this MOU shall remain confidential unless jointly approved for release. Any disputes will be resolved amicably through consultation and negotiation between the Parties.

9. Signatures

For the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA/CIQG):

Name: _____

Title: President

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE):

Name: _____

Title: President

Signature: _____

Date: _____