Mr. Janis Karklins
Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information
UNESCO

By e-mail – j.karklins@unesco.org

December 8, 2010

Re: Implementing the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

Here is the Israel IFAP Committee response on the subject:

In 2007, the Israeli parliament – The Kneset, enacted a law that establishes an Academy for Arabic Language. Its major goals are to monitor the changes in the Arabic language in terms of terminology, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. It should also propose new terms in the Arabic language in order to adapt to contemporary life and environment; special attention is devoted to the era of cyberspace, Internet and information technology.

It should be noted that a similar Academy for the Hebrew language has been in operation for decades. Today this law recognizes Arabic and Hebrew as official languages in Israel.

It should also be noted that the information technology industry and vendors convert most of the software products to Hebrew and to Arabic.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Bar-Elli
Secretary **Implementing the Recommendation concerning the Promotion** General
Israel National Commission for UNESCO

Cc: Professor Niv Ahituv, Chairperson of the Israeli Information for All Committee
     Mr. Aviv Zeevi, Coordinator of the Israeli Information for All Committee