

We Need to Get Closer, Says Brazilian Minister to Arabs

Contributed by Alexandre Rocha
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The minister of Foreign Relations of Brazil, Celso Amorim, stated that the Summit of South American - Arab Countries should promote closer ties between both blocs.

"These relations were underrated, but from now on we will look each other face to face," stated the minister during the last meeting with foreign ministers before the summit.

He also stated that it is necessary to act on various fronts, such as the economic, political and cultural, to make this integration firmer.

Amorim also declared that this process of closer ties, in the case of the Arabs and South Americans, is starting at a very advanced phase.

"When talking about alliances between civilizations, in our case there is already a connection." The minister was referring to South America countries having been greatly influenced by the Arab migration.

"This appears in our daily life. In the name of the people, in what we eat, in the music, architecture, etc. The objective of the summit is to come closer," stated Amorim.

The minister added that, apart from the final declaration of the summit, the meeting already presents some practical results.

"At the inauguration of the business meeting, for example, we had over 1,200 businessmen," stated the Minister.

The number of those registered for participation in the first day exceeded the Brazilian Foreign Office (Itamaraty) forecasts, which had been 820.

Amorim added that the summit is part of a historic moment in which South America and the Arab countries are giving an example to other regions that through dialogue it is possible to evolve to a "better, more peaceful and democratic" world.

Anba