



**Islamic, Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-**

**20th Session of the Executive Council
of the Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
-ISESCO-**

Final Report

Rabat, 22 - 26 November 1999

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its Twentieth Session at Rabat, capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 13-17 Shaaban 1420 A.H., corresponding to 22-26 November, 1999. It was attended by all the members of the Executive Council, except for the representatives of the following countries : Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Djibouti, Suriname and Kyrgyzstan.

(Annex 1 : List of the Executive Council members or their attending substitutes)

Opening Session : Monday, 13 Shaaban 1420 A.H. / 22 November, 1999

Morning

- 1- The Opening Session was attended by H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali, Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Dr. Khalid Ibn Mohammed Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and President of the Organization's Sixth General Conference, H.E. Prof. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Chairman of the Executive Council, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajjri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and H.E. Professor Ahmed Ali Al-Ghazali, Representative of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Session was also attended, on the Moroccan Government's side, by H.E. the Minister of Communication, Professor Mohammed Al-Arbi Al-Massari, and Her Excellency the Junior Minister in Charge of the Handicapped, by representatives of the diplomatic corps and international organizations accredited to Rabat, in addition to a host of personalities from the education, culture and information community.
- 2- The Opening Session began with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. H.E. the Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, Dr. Najib Zerouali, delivered afterward a speech in which he expressed his country's pride in hosting the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which he described as one of the most important regional organizations, occupying a prominent position both at the Islamic and international levels. He also recalled the attention and care extended by the late King His Majesty Hassan II to the Islamic Organization, stressing that His Majesty King Mohammed VI had spared no effort

in consolidating that tradition as part of his efforts to protect and safeguard the unity of the Islamic Ummah.

H.E. the Moroccan Minister praised the considerable achievements realized by ISESCO, hailing in particular the outstanding efforts exerted in the preparation of the Strategy for Developing Science and Technology in the Islamic countries, which was a complementary element of the series of strategies, namely the Strategy for Developing Education in the Islamic countries and the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World. The Minister also pointed out that the realization of those achievements had been possible thanks to the efficient planning and sound management which had always characterized the Islamic Organization under the leadership of its Director General, and to the masterly planning that had always marked its work. He also called for continuous vigilance and evaluation of achievements on the ground that evaluation was an established Islamic cultural value.

**(Annex 2 : Address by H.E. Dr. Najib Zerouali,
Minister of Higher Education,
Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research
of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco)**

- 3- His Excellency Professor Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Executive Council, delivered an address in which he expressed his thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, as well as to his honourable Government, for his unfailing support to the Organization and the facilitation of its work, proceeding on the path of his father, His Majesty the late King Hassan II, whose demise was a loss for the entire Muslim Ummah. Professor Kazi Rakibuddin then welcomed the members of the Executive Council and the President of the Sixth General Conference, conveying to the audience the greetings of Her Excellency the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

He likewise highlighted, in his address, the distinct position which the Organization was occupying both at the regional and international levels, thanks to the sound planning initiated by the members of its General Conference, the wise directives of the Executive Council, and the efficient and able management demonstrated by its Director General.

Professor Kazi Rakibuddin underlined that the Draft Agenda of that Session featured important items, such as the Organization's Medium-Term Plan for the

Years 2001-2009, the Broad Lines of the Organization's Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003, and the project on setting up regional offices for the Organization in the Member States. He pointed out in that connection that the realization of such projects was contingent upon payment of the Member States' contributions and arrears. He expressed wishes that the situation would improve, after the parties concerned in the Member States had been informed of the subject.

At the end of his address, His Excellency Prof. Kazi Rakibuddin praised the Organization's achievements and efforts to meet the educational, scientific and cultural needs of the Member States, noting that despite the shortage of financial resources, more than 70% of the overall expenditures had been allocated to the implementation of the scheduled programmes.

**(Annex 3 : Address by H.E. Prof. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad,
Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,
Chairman of the Executive Council)**

- 4- His Excellency Dr. Khalid Ibn Mohammed Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Sixth General Conference of ISESCO, delivered an address in which he expressed his pleasure to meet with the members of the Executive Council. He conveyed to the Council the greetings of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and their wishes of success for the Session.

The President of the General Conference of ISESCO extolled the late Moroccan Monarch, His Majesty King Hassan II, may Allah bless him, describing him as one of the most distinguished pioneers and great leaders of the joint Islamic action, whose demise was a great loss for the Muslim Ummah. He likewise recalled that the Islamic Ummah was bereaved of one of the great figures of the cultural and sports renaissance, His Highness Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the President of Youth Care in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the International Commission for the Protection of the Islamic Civilizational Heritage.

H.E. then expressed his satisfaction with the prominent position occupied by the Organization in its capacity as the specialized body in the Organization of the Islamic Conference system and as a mainstay of development in the fields of education, science and culture in the Islamic world. He commended the achievements realized by the Organization thanks to the support extended by the

Member States, the wise directives made by the Executive Council, and the steady efforts exerted by the General Directorate staff, on the forefront of whom was the Director General, to implement the programmes and projects.

H. E. likewise pointed out that the importance of the Session was all the greater since it coincided with the imminent advent of the Twenty-First Century, which represented a new stage in human history, replete with challenges and changes. Its importance also lied, added he, in the Session's prospective examination of the Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009 as well as the Broad Lines of the Action Plan 2001-2003.

At the end of his address, H.E. the Minister commended His Majesty King Mohammed VI and his Government for the generous care and unfailing patronage extended to ISESCO in a way that deserved heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

**(Annex 4 : Address by H.E. Dr. Khalid Ibn Mohammed Al-Ankary,
Minister of Higher Education in the Government of
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Sixth General Conference)**

- 5- H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, delivered an address in which he first commended the generous care and lavish attention which the late Moroccan Monarch, His Majesty King Hassan II, had bestowed on the Islamic Organization, as well as the tremendous services His Majesty had rendered for Islam and Muslims. He implored Almighty Allah to bestow His Mercy and Gratification on him, and to preserve and assist his successor, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, and to guide the actions of the leaders of the Member States towards the well-being of the Islamic Ummah.

He likewise addressed his thanks to the Government of His Majesty King Mohammed VI for the care and assistance extended to the Islamic Organization, and welcomed H.E. Dr. Khalid Mohammed Al-Ankary, Minister of Higher Education of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thanking him for his participation in the proceedings of the Executive Council, which was a token of the generous support extended to the Islamic Organization by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

H.E. the Director General underlined that during the seventeen years of its existence, the Islamic Organization had made considerable civilizational achievements in the fields of education, science and culture, thus becoming a towering edifice of Islamic solidarity, thanks to Allah first, and then to the trust which the Member States had placed in it as well as to their full support and backing.

H. E. the Director General then indicated that during the second year of the Three-Year Action Plan (1998-2000), burdens had multiplied, and, in addition to the implementation of the scheduled programmes, work had started on the following Draft Action Plan (2001-2003), as well as the Medium-Term Plan (2001-2009). He stated that in spite of the severe financial situation, the Organization had managed to raise the implementation rate to 85% and to allocate 80% of the resources available to the programmes as part of a rigorous policy based on the rationalization of expenditure, in addition to the quest for additional resources within the framework of cooperation.

H.E. the Director General further pointed out that, during that period, the Organization focused on promoting educational development in the Member States, as well as updating scientific curricula, supporting scientific research projects, and protecting the environment, in addition to developing Islamic culture and consolidating the cultural identity of Muslim societies. He added that the Organization's efforts also involved opening up onto universal culture through developing the Organization's site in Internet.

At the close of his address, H.E. affirmed that the achievements which the Organization had realized in that year served the higher interests of all the Member States, and that the Islamic Organization had become a sturdy edifice that helped the Ummah stand fast in the civilizational battlefield of a fast-changing world under the wing of globalization.

**(Annex 5 : Address by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri,
Director General of ISESCO)**

- 6- At the end of the Opening Session, the participating members of the Executive Council and the guests attended a reception given in their honour by the Director General.

First Working Session : Monday, 13 Shaaban 1420 A.H. / 22 November, 1999

Afternoon

**Item 1.1 of the Draft Agenda
(Adoption of the Agenda)
(Document C.E. 20/99/1.1 Provisional Revised)**

- 7- The Council's Chairman presented the proposed Draft Agenda to the Council (Document C.E. 20/99/1.1 Provisional Revised). The document was approved by

the Council members in its proposed form, on the understanding that an in camera session be held to discuss some of the Agenda items determined by the General Directorate. The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 1.1 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Agenda)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Articles (23-25) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Draft Agenda of its 20th Session contained in document (CE 20/99/1.1 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Adopts the Agenda of its current 20th Session as contained in the document (CE 20/99/1.1 Adopted) annexed to the Final Report of the said Session.

(Annex 6 : Document C.E. 20/99/1.1 Adopted)

**Item 1.2 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Session's Programme)
(Document C.E. 20/99/1.2 Provisional Revised)**

- 8-** The Council examined the proposed Programme of the Session (Document C.E. 20/99/1.2 Provisional Revised). Following discussions, the Council members agreed to hold the working sessions on a continuous-basis, that is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with half an hour's break for prayer purposes. The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 1.2 of the Agenda
(Adoption of the Programme)**

The Executive Council,

- Recalling the Decision (CE 19/98/D 6.1) adopted by the Executive Council in its 19th Session (Rabat, 19-24 November 1998), whereby the Council decided to hold its 20th Session in Rabat in the second half of November 1999,

- Considering Decision (CE 20/99/D 1.1) adopted by the Council in connection with the Agenda of its current 20th Session,
- Having considered the Draft Programme of this Session contained in document (CE 20/99/1.2 Provisional),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Adopts the Programme of its current 20th Session as contained in the document (CE 20/99/1.2 Adopted) annexed to the Final Report of this Session.

(Annex 7 : Document C.E. 20/99/1.2 Adopted)

Item 2.1 of the Agenda

**(Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities
between the 19th and 20th Council Sessions)**

(Document C.E. 20/99/2.1 and Document C.E. 20/99/2.1 Addendum)

- 9-** The Director General made a succinct presentation of his report, in which he highlighted the main results achieved in the current year, and delineated the circumstances surrounding the implementation of activities, such as the General Directorate's focus on the preparation of the Draft Action Plan 2001-2003. He underlined the fact that the tardiness of certain Member States in settling their contributions had compelled the General Directorate to reconsider the number of projects, programmes and activities scheduled for implementation that year, which were thus cut down to 288 activities. He stated that the implementation of those activities was further coupled with restrictive measures aimed to rationalize the operating and equipment expenditures. The Director General indicated afterward that ISESCO's action that year focused on the achievement of four cardinal objectives, namely to concentrate on the implementation of programmes and activities related to training and development projects in the Member States and Muslim communities, to promote specialized academic and research work in the educational, scientific, cultural and communication fields throughout the Islamic world, to strengthen ISESCO's position on the international arena and boost its role in the forging of international policies in its fields of competence, and to reinforce cooperation with similar regional and international organizations and institutions.

The Director General indicated, afterward, that the General Directorate had endeavoured during the implementation of ISESCO's activities to extend benefit to

all the Member States, with special emphasis on the neediest countries, and to the Muslim communities in non-Muslim countries. He added that the General Directorate had sought, at the same time, to cover all the fields of action enshrined in the Three-Year Action Plan, namely education, science, culture, communication, informatics, documentation, information and cooperation with National Commissions. In this connection, he underscored that the General Directorate had taken advantage of the cooperation agreements concluded with regional and international organizations as well as charitable institutions, which made it possible to have 152 cooperation activities out of the 288 activities planned, representing 52.87%. The Director General emphasized that by the end of the year under consideration, 242 activities out of 288 had been carried out, with a budget standing at US\$ 3,113,290.78 and an implementation rate reaching 84.03%.

10- In their interventions, the Council members conveyed profound thanks to the Director General and his assistants for the successful efforts exerted to attain ISESCO's goals, expressing also their appreciation for the high implementation rates scored and the efforts expended with a view to overcoming all obstacles and difficulties. Discussions mainly revolved around the following points :

- the high implementation rate achieved despite the low contribution rate, and the need to explain the situation in a way to show the real shortage affecting ISESCO's resources;
- the need to shed light on the nature and orientations of cooperation agreements as well as the types of activities implemented within their framework, in addition to the benefits drawn by ISESCO from them;
- the dispersion of activities and absence of a well-defined, well-coordinated framework for implementation;
- the dwindling of the financial resources earmarked for the Science Directorate's activities in comparison with previous years, notwithstanding the pressing need to foster interest in scientific activities and informatics;
- continue efforts to bring more countries into ISESCO's membership;
- intensify efforts so as to enrich the content of ISESCO's Internet site, particularly in the Arabic and English languages;
- endeavour to extend ISESCO's efforts to meet the needs of Muslims in USA.

11- The Director General extended thanks to the Executive Council members for the relevant observations they had put forward, indicating that their comments would be taken into account prior to submitting the document to the 7th General Conference as well as during preparation of the following plans of action. He emphasized, in particular, that all the activities carried out by the General Directorate stemmed from the programmes of the Action Plan 1998-2000 and were already adopted by the 6th General Conference. The Director General made clarifications about the points raised by the Executive Council members, indicating that the obvious contrast between the contribution settlement rate and the activity implementation rate was ascribed to a number of factors, foremost of which were :

- the 19% rate mentioned represents the outstanding contributions settled for the financial year 1999, on the understanding that other amounts were received by ISESCO from certain Member States in payment of arrears for previous financial years;
- the number of activities under each programme was diminished;
- the number of participants was reduced;
- the number of days scheduled for implementing activities was cut down;
- cooperating partners were associated in the implementation of several programmes to the extent that cooperation activities accounted for 52% out of the total activities implemented;
- the implementation rate was calculated in the light of activities scheduled for 1999, not the programmes of the entire Plan.

Following deliberations, the Council took the following decision in this connection :

**Decision on Item 2.1 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on the Organization's
Activities between the 19th and 20th Council Sessions)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 21, paragraph (a), of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Having considered the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 19th and 20th Council Sessions, which is contained in documents (CE 20/99/2.1) and (CE 20/99/2.1 Addendum),

- Having heard the presentation delivered by the Director General of the Islamic Organization,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the opinions and observations put forward,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 19th and 20th Council Sessions as contained in documents (CE 20/99/2.1) and (CE 20/99/2.1 Addendum), taking into account the observations made by the Executive Council members prior to submitting it to the General Conference;
- 2- Expresses appreciation for the considerable efforts exerted by the Director General in pursuing the implementation of programmes and continuing management despite the shortage of financial resources;
- 3- Commends the steady efforts expended by the Director General to broaden the areas of cooperation with international and regional organizations and Arab and Islamic institutions within the framework of programme implementation;
- 4- Approves the presentation of this Report to the Seventh General Conference and recommends its adoption by this General Conference.

Second Working Session: Tuesday, 14 Shaaban 1420 A.H. / 23 November, 1999

Morning :

- 12- The Council held an in camera session, in which it discussed the items for which it was decided to hold a closed session.

Item 2.2 of the Agenda

**(Financial report of the Director General and Closing Accounts
for Financial Year 1998, General Statements of Accounts
and Expenditure up to the End of September, 1999)**

(Document C.E. 20/99/2.2 and Document C.E. 20/99/2.2 Addendum)

- 13- Following deliberations on this item, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.2 of the Agenda
(Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts
for Financial Year 1998, and General Statements of Accounts
and Expenditure up to the end of September 1999)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 16 of the Charter, Articles 19 and 29 of the Financial Regulations, and Article 21, paragraph “d” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Pursuant to Resolution CG 5/94/R 2.3 of the 5th General Conference and considering operative paragraphs (4) and (5) of the Decision CE 15/94/D 2.2 adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session (Damascus, 19-24/11/1994) on the dates of the Financial Reports,
- Having considered the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1998 as well as the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 1999, contained respectively in documents (CE 20/99/2.2) and (CE 20/99/2.2. Addendum),
- Having heard the clarifications provided by the Director General in this connection,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place and the observations made,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the Financial Report of the Director General and the Closing Accounts for Financial Year 1998 and the General Statements of Accounts and Expenditure up to the end of September 1999, as contained respectively in documents (CE 20/99/2.2) and (CE 20/99/2.2 Addendum);
- 2-** Expresses appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Director General in gearing the bulk of ISESCO’s financial resources to the implementation of programmes, and in rationalizing operating expenses;
- 3-** Agrees to submit the said Report to the Seventh General Conference and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

Item 2.3 of the Agenda
(Reports of the Financial Control Committee and
the Audit Company for Financial Year 1998)
(Document CE 20/99/2.3)

14- Following deliberations on this item, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 2.3 of the Agenda
(Reports of the Financial Control Committee and
the Audit Company for Financial Year 1998)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 19 of the Charter, Article 20 and Articles 24 through 29 of the Financial Regulations, Article 21, paragraphs “b” and “c” of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Taking note of the meeting held by the Financial Control Committee at ISESCO’s headquarters, at the invitation of the General Directorate in accordance with the provisions of operative paragraphs (4) and (5) of Decision CE 15/94/D.2.2. adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session in connection with the dates of the Financial Reports and the invitation of the Financial Control Committee to meet at the beginning of July each year to prepare its report,
- Recalling Decision (CE 19/98/D.2.3) adopted by the 19th Executive Council Session (Rabat, 19-24 November 1998) whereby the Council approved the nomination of “Audit International” group as auditor of the Organization's accounts,
- Having considered document (CE 20/99/2.3) which contains the Reports of the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company for Financial Year 1998,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Report of the Financial Control Committee (except for recommendations 4 and 5, and the recommendation pertaining to the amendment of article 2 of the Charter and article 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council), and also adopts the report of the Audit Company for Financial Year 1998, as contained both in document (CE 20/99/2.3);

- 2- Thanks the Chairman of the Financial Control Committee and its members for their efforts in controlling the financial and accounting procedures of the Organization and supporting the improvement of these procedures;
- 3- Commends the Director General's compliance with the recommendations of the Financial Control Committee adopted by the Council, and his initiatives to ensure the enforcement of those recommendations, and invites him to proceed in this course;
- 4- Recommends that the Seventh General Conference adopt these two reports contained in document (C.E 20/99/2.3).

Item 2.4 of the Agenda

(Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization)

- 15- Following deliberations on this item, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 2.4 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 17 of the Charter and Article 6 of the Financial Regulations,
- Recalling the decisions adopted by the previous sessions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference of ISESCO in this connection, in particular the following :
 - * Decision C.E. 15/94/D. 2.4 adopted by the Executive Council at its 15th Session (Damascus, 19-24/11/1994), whereby it adopted, in the third operative paragraph, the report of the Committee set up by the Council in its 14th Session to examine the situation of Member States' contributions to the Organization's budget,
 - * Resolution C.G. 5/94/R. 2.5 adopted by the 5th General Conference (Damascus, 27-30/11/1994), whereby it invited in the third operative paragraph the representatives of Member States in the General Conference, and the members of the Executive Council to contact the relevant parties in

their countries so as to stress the paramount importance of their commitment to a regular settlement of their contributions and to paying up their arrears in order to sustain the Organization's action,

* Resolution CG 6/97/R 2.5 of the 6th General Conference (Riyadh 6-9/12/1997) which affirmed the provisions of the Resolution of the 5th General Conference and the necessity for the Member States to settle their contributions and pay up their arrears in order to help the Organization fulfill its civilizational mission,

*Decision CE 19/98/ D. 2.4 adopted by the Executive Council at its 19th Session (Rabat,19-24 November 1998) whereby the Council invited the Member States to settle regularly their contributions and to clarify the reasons for non payment of their contributions in case of arrears.

- Considering the presentation made by the Director General,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization, as contained in Document C.E. 20/99/2.4;
- 2- Affirms the previous resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Council in this respect, in particular the Decision C.E. 15/94/D. 2.4 adopted by the Executive Council in its 15th Session, the proposals of the Committee it had set up in its 14th Session, the Resolution C.G. 6/97/R. 2.5 of the 5th General Conference, and the Decision CE 19/98/D. 2.4 adopted by the 19th Executive Council Session;
- 3- Thanks the President of the General Conference for the messages he kindly addressed to the competent authorities in the Member States urging them to settle their contributions regularly;
- 4- Thanks the Chairman of the Executive Council for the messages he kindly addressed to competent authorities in the Member States urging them to settle their contributions regularly;
- 5- Expresses appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Director General to intensify contacts with the Member States to collect a maximum of contributions, as well as for his efforts to promote cooperation with

international organizations to secure further support to the Organization's activities and programmes, and the initiatives he has taken to obtain contributions from senior officials and charitable institutions in the Member States, and invites him to carry on with his efforts in this connection;

- 6- Thanks the Members of the Executive Council and the officials in charge of National Commissions for the efforts exerted to bring their respective countries to pay regularly their contributions, and invites them to intensify those efforts;
- 7- Expresses thanks to Colonel Muammar Kaddafi, Leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and to His Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, Second Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Defence and Aviation and General Inspector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for their generous support of the Organization's activities;
- 8- Agrees to submit this Report to the Seventh General Conference and recommends its adoption.

Item 4.5 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on
the enforcement of Article (117) of the Personnel Regulations)
(Document CE 20/99/4.5)

16- Following deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 4.5 of the Agenda
(Report of the Director General on the Enforcement
of Article 117 of the Personnel Regulations)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article (117) of the Personnel Regulations, which stipulates that *“the Director General shall submit to the Executive Council a detailed report describing the reasons for the reduction of posts as well as the number of such posts”*,
- Having considered the report presented by the Director General in this respect (document CE 20/99/4.5),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Takes note of the report presented by the Director General in this respect;
- 2- Thanks the Director General for the measures he has taken to rationalize expenditure within the Islamic Organization -ISESCO.

**Item 4.6 of the Agenda
(Amendment of Article 26 of the Rules of Procedure
of the Executive Council)
(Document CE 20/99/4.6)**

- 17- Following deliberations, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.6 of the Agenda
(Amendment of Article (26) of the Rules
of Procedure of the Executive Council)**

The Executive Council,

- Having decided to reject recommendations 4 and 6 contained in the report of the Financial Control Committee as well as the recommendation concerning article 2 of the Charter and article 26 of the Executive Council's Rules of Procedure,

Decides the following :

- Not to discuss this item.

**Item 4.1 of the Agenda
(Project of Setting up ISESCO's Regional Offices in the Member States)
(Document C.E. 20/99/4.1)**

- 18- The Director General made a presentation on this document, in which he explained that, in compliance with the Council's decision adopted in the 19th Session, he had continued contacts with the State of the United Arab Emirates in response to its generous initiative to open an ISESCO regional office in the Sharjah Emirate. He stated that he had received a positive response, and that there was full readiness to facilitate the opening of the office. Calling to mind the comprehensive study on setting up ISESCO regional offices in the Member States, which the General Directorate had carried out, he indicated that the study showed that opening regional offices was likely to enhance coordination with Member States and save an important part of expenditure, as it would lead to reduction of the costs of representation, organization and distribution, alleviating

by the same token the administrative workload. He suggested discussing the issue of opening ISESCO offices in the Arab region, East Asia, Africa, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, and the United States of America, provided it took place according to conditions that guaranteed the usefulness of opening such offices, as well as an economy in the costs of the implementation of the Organization's activities.

19- The Council members extended thanks to the Director General for preparing this document, and expressed many opinions during their discussions, most important of which were :

- Need for separating the issue of setting up the Sharjah Office, which the Council had approved in principle through a decision taken in the previous session, and the issue of establishing regional offices in general.
- The present situation requires gradual progression in opening offices.
- Need to study and evaluate the experiences of similar organizations in setting up regional offices.
- Need to avoid the possible duplicity between National Commissions and regional offices.
- Need to respond to the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran to open a regional office of ISESCO therein, taking into consideration its readiness to provide all the required facilities and means for running the office.

The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.1 of the Agenda
(Project of Setting up ISESCO's
Regional Offices in the Member States)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of article (2) of ISESCO's Charter,
- Recalling the Decision CE 19/98/D 5.6 of the Executive Council at its 19th Session,
- Having considered the study contained in document CE 20/99/4.1,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Approves in principle the opening of limited regional offices of ISESCO in Member States;
- 2- Confirms the Council's decision taken at its 19th Session in connection with the opening of ISESCO's regional office in the Sharjah Emirate (State of the United Arab Emirates);
- 3- Approves in principle the opening of ISESCO's regional office in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- 4- Thanks the Director General for conducting a comprehensive study on the implementation of this project, and invites him to send it to the Member States for comments;
- 5- Places this item on the Agenda of the 21st Council Session.

Third Working Session: Wednesday, 15 Shaaban 1420 A.H./24 November 1999

**Item 3.1 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009)
(Document CE 20/99/3.1)**

- 20- The Director General presented the document on ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan for the Years 2001-2009, and pointed out that, in compliance with the Decision adopted by the Executive Council at its 19th Session, he had distributed, in December 1998, the Draft Plan along with the observations made by the Council, to the Members and requested the competent parties in the Member States to supply the General Directorate with their observations and proposals. His Excellency indicated that he had subsequently sent reminders, in March 1999, to the Member States, and, pursuant to the Council's Decision, the Director General set up a six-member expert committee entrusted with the examination of the Member States' observations and with the elaboration of the Draft Plan into its final form, to be submitted to the present Executive Council Session. The Committee met under the chairmanship of Professor Iba Der Thiam, examined the observations and opinions and introduced the amendments proposed. The Chairman of the Committee undertook the drafting of the General Introduction which set the philosophical and civilizational tone of the Project.

21- The Chairman of the Committee took the floor and presented a complementary report on the proceedings of the Committee. He first extended thanks to the Member States which had provided the Committee with valuable papers, and indicated that the Committee had examined them carefully, amended the Document and handed it over to the Organization, which, in turn, submitted it to the Member States. The Member States expressed their observations and the Committee introduced them, all, without any omission. The Chairman expressed readiness to receive any new proposals.

22- The Draft Medium-Term Plan was examined extensively and thoroughly by the Council members. The main observations they made were as follows :

- The Project represents a qualitative leap towards achievement of progress and renaissance.
- The Project is rather ambitious, and should stick to realism.
- Focus should be placed on basic matters and on evaluation of performance under the previous plans as a ground for amendment of the Project.
- The necessity to observe a specific methodology that makes a clear distinction between objectives, means and resources.
- The necessity to promote interest in child education as a basis for development, in the setting up of an open Islamic university as part of distance learning, and in women education.
- The necessity to arrange priorities under the Plan in the light of implementation possibilities within the framework of the budgets expected.
- Emphasis should be placed on planning and counselling on the understanding that the Organization is a center of excellence which conducts planning and is not solely an implementing agent, given that implementation is the responsibility of the States. Some honourable Members made remarks pertaining to the style.

23- The Chairman of the Committee, along with some other members, responded to the observations made by the Council Members. The responses may be summarized as follows :

- the observations made were constructive, enriching to the Project and will be taken into account by the Committee,

- affirming that the Holy Quran be the constant reference for all orientations of the Plan,
- Stressing interest in child, youth and women education.

The Council took the following decision thereon :

**Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with Article 21, paragraph (e) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, which stipulates that the Council shall examine the draft action plans of the Organization,
- Recalling Decision CE 19/98/ D. 3.1 adopted by the 19th Executive Council Session, which mandates the Director General, in its fourth operative paragraph, to set up a six-member committee entrusted with the revision of ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009,
- Having considered the Document (CE 20/99/3.1) submitted by the Committee in charge of preparing ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009,
- Considering the deliberations of the Executive Council, its opinions and directives,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009 as contained in document CE 20/99/3.1;
- 2- Thanks the Committee of experts for their efforts to enrich and amend ISESCO's Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009, and their taking into account the observations made by the Executive Council members as well as those submitted in writing to the General Directorate by the Organization's Member States;
- 3- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their efforts in preparing this document;
- 4- Recommends that the Seventh General Conference adopt the Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009.

Item 3.2 of the Agenda
(Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003)
(Document C.E. 20/99/3.2)

24- The Director General made a presentation on the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003, stating that the Plan would usher the Organization into the third millennium and help the Member States face up to the new challenges generated by the rapid international mutations taking place in the educational, scientific, cultural, communication and informatics fields. He indicated that one of the salient features of the Project consisted in its linkage to the Three-Year Plan 1998-2000, on the one hand, and its capitalization on the Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009, on the other. He added that its remaining contents would be further incorporated into the following two three-year plans. He then pointed out that the Draft Plan had drawn on the following sources :

- Decision of the Executive Council in its 19th Session
- Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009
- Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000
- The four strategies of ISESCO
- Resolutions of relevant international conferences.

The Director General then explained that one of the strong points of that Draft Action Plan consisted in the reinforcement and harnessing of a number of accomplishments of the successive Action Plans of ISESCO, which made it possible to foster the comprehensive strategic vision of ISESCO in its fields of action.

Concluding his presentation, the Director General stated that one of the prominent features of the Draft Plan's structure was the adoption of a number of fields of action in the educational, scientific, cultural, information and communication fields which ramified into axes, and the axes into programmes and projects.

25- The document was discussed and analysed at great length by the Council members. Their observations may be summarized as follows :

- Reconsider the Broad Lines in the light of the proposals put forward during the discussion of the Draft Medium-Term Plan.
- Correct some of the terminology in line with the Organization's mainstream and the international trends.

- Enrich the ideational content of the Broad Lines with some terms.
- Adhere to the budget ceiling and take it into account.
- Determine the priorities of programme implementation in the light of Member States' needs.
- Give priority to the planning aspects rather than to the implementation modalities.
- Attach special importance to Al-Quds Al-Sharif in the face of the ruthless Zionist campaign aimed at judaizing the holy city.

The Council took the following decision thereon :

**Decision on Item 3.2 of the Agenda
(Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year
Action Plan 2001-2003 of the Organization)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of article (21), paragraph (e) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- In the light of Decision CE 19/98/D 3.1 adopted by the Executive Council at its 19th Session, in particular operative paragraph 5 on mandating the Director General to prepare the Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003 based on the Draft Medium-Term Action Plan 2001-2009 of the Organization,
- Having considered the Broad Lines of the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003 of the Organization,
- Considering the deliberations of the Council members, their views and orientations,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts the Broad Lines of the Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003 of the Organization as contained in document CE 20/99/3.2, taking into consideration the observations of the Council;
- 2- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for the preparation of this document, for the new ideas it contains as well as for the efforts that have been expended;

- 3- Mandates the Director General to take all the measures necessary for the elaboration of the draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003 based on the Broad Lines of the Draft Medium-Term Plan 2001-2009, taking into account the observations of the Council thereon;
 - 4- Presents the Draft Three-Year Action Plan 2001-2003 to the twenty-first session of the Council.
- 26- As part of their concern with the issues and preoccupations of Muslims, the Executive Council members discussed extensively the human tragedy suffered by the Muslims in the Republic of Chechnya, and decided to issue the following communiqué and disseminate it among the mass media in the Member States and elsewhere :

Communiqué of the Executive Council of ISESCO on the Question of the People of Chechnya

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, having addressed within the framework of the meetings of its Twentieth Session held in Rabat the issues of concern to the Islamic public opinion, and examined the general conditions in the countries of the Muslim World, including the war of extermination being waged, on false grounds, against the Republic of Chechnya, expresses its strong condemnation and vigorous denunciation of the savage aggression perpetrated by the Russian forces against the Muslim people of Chechnya, reaffirms its full solidarity with the Muslim brothers in Chechnya, and appeals to the international community to intervene urgently with all available means, and through international organizations and the Security Council, in such a way as to bring pressure to bear on the government of the Russian Federation to halt its aggression against this Muslim people.

The Executive Council of ISESCO appeals to the Muslim world to take positive initiatives to express active and tangible solidarity with the people of Chechnya, and to extend support and assistance to this people, either directly or through international organizations and charitable agencies with humanitarian concerns.

The Executive Council considers what is taking place in Chechnya as a blatant aggression resulting in a grave humanitarian situation, and that none of the United Nations or UNESCO charters, nor the instruments of any international, regional or charitable organization, rule out taking measures and initiatives that are likely to put an end to the Russian aggression against the people of Chechnya, or taking an urgent international humanitarian action to rescue the people of Chechnya from the

extermination perpetrated against it in broad daylight, before the world and with its condonation in general.

The Executive Council of ISESCO hails the initiatives taken by some governments, international organizations and mass media which have condemned the Russian aggression against the people of Chechnya and have taken moves with a view to bringing the aggression to an end.

The Executive Council, further, pays tribute to the governments, the personalities and the journalists who have condemned the aggression and have demanded that negotiations be initiated.

The Executive Council of ISESCO considers that showing Islamic solidarity with the people of Chechnya is a religious duty and a humane necessity, and indeed a fair and just claim which does not run counter to international law.

The Executive Council of ISESCO appeals to the entire Muslim world to take a positive step as required by Islamic solidarity and fraternity, especially to bring pressure to bear, through legitimate ways, on the belligerent state to halt its aggression and to liberate the Muslim people of Chechnya from this unjust and savage aggression.

Fourth Working Session: Thursday, 16 Shaaban 1420 A.H. / 25 November, 1999

Item 4.2 of the Agenda (Project of Establishing the Islamic Federation of Parents' and Teachers' Associations) (Document C.E. 20/99/4.2)

27- In accordance with a proposal put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the General Directorate presented a preliminary project on establishing a federation of parents' and teachers' associations, intended, particularly, to promote parental education programmes within the framework of continuous education from an Islamic perspective.

The Council had decided to invite the Director General to prepare an in-depth study on the subject, taking into account the observations made by the Council members.

Pursuant to the Decision of the Executive Council, the Islamic Organization prepared the annexed study on parental education in the Islamic world. The study revealed two indissociable points :

- 1- The paramount importance of parental education in developing a well-balanced personality for the child, and the growing importance of parental education in the modern times.
- 2- The compelling necessity to provide parents with an education that rises to the level of so-called (parental profession), that is to say prepare them for discharging efficiently their role in the upbringing of their children.

In the light of the foregoing, and in response to the observations and proposals put forward by the Council members upon presentation of the subject to the 19th Council session, and in order to avoid any confusion that might result between the teachers' associations already existing and the Federation proposed, the Organization suggested the following :

- 1- Incorporate, in ISESCO's programmes, activities pertaining to parental education.
 - 2- Support Member States' efforts in this connection.
- 28- The Council members discussed the subject, and commended the document prepared by the General Directorate. They made the following observations :
- The necessity to take advantage of the document on Parental Education in the Islamic World, and distribute it to the competent parties in the Member States so as to benefit from its contents.
 - The Education Directorate at the Islamic Organization was invited to develop related literature.
 - The necessity to have the family cell involved in the educational process so as to upgrade performance.
 - The need to support the efforts exerted by parents' and teachers' associations in different fields and to promote their role in parental education.

The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.2 of the Agenda
(Project of establishing the Islamic Federation
of Parents' and Teachers' Associations)**

The Executive Council,

- Considering the growing importance of parental education,

- Recalling Decision CE 19/98/D 5.5 adopted by the Executive Council at its 19th Session,
- Having considered the in-depth study contained in document CE 20/99/4.2,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Thanks the Director General for his preparation of an in-depth study on this subject ;
- 2- Invites the Director General to gear a number of ISESCO's programmes and activities to the promotion of parental education in the Member States;
- 3- Invites the Director General to extend support to the institutions concerned with parental education in the Member States.

**Item 4.3 of the Agenda
(Construction of ISESCO's headquarters)
(Document C.E. 20/99/4.3)**

- 29- The Director General made a presentation on the developments that occurred in connection with the subject in the period between the two Executive Council Sessions. He pointed out that he had approached His Excellency the Minister of Higher Education, Executive Staff Training and Scientific Research in the Government of the Seat Country, which resulted in the exchange of the plot of land donated to the Organization by the Moroccan Government with a better located plot of land. He stated that procedures were being taken to secure the property transfer to the Organization, and to adjust the architectural plan to suit the new plot of land. His Excellency further indicated that he had made contacts with H.E. the Minister of Education in the State of the United Arab Emirates with a view to collecting the funds necessary for the construction. He proposed that the Organization should start building the headquarters gradually, and requested the support of the Council's members to obtain the required funds.
- 30- The Council members discussed the matter extensively and came up with the following proposals :
 - Explore opportunities for financing the construction project by the private sector.
 - Seek a loan from the Islamic Development Bank or any other bank to start the construction works.

- Necessity to start the initial construction works, and then seek financing for the project.

31- The Council members appreciated the Director General's proposal that the construction cost be spread over several donors or institutions in return for putting their names on the constructed units. They recommended that contacts be pursued with the State of the United Arab Emirates before implementing the proposal. Thereupon, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.3 of the Agenda
(Construction of ISESCO's Headquarters)**

The Executive Council,

- Recalling Decision CE 18/97/D 3.2 on the construction of ISESCO's headquarters, which was adopted by the Executive Council at its 18th Session (Riyadh, 29/11/-4/12/1997) and approved by the Sixth General Conference in its Resolution CG 6/97/R 3.1,
- In accordance with the previous decisions of the Executive Council and resolutions of the General Conference of the Organization in this respect,
- Having considered the report of the Director General on the construction of ISESCO's headquarters contained in document CE 20/99/4.3,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Extends thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the assistance it has provided to ISESCO and for accepting to exchange the plot of land owned by ISESCO to construct its permanent headquarters for another parcel of land located in a better area;
- 2-** Commends the continued efforts exerted by the Director General to carry through that project;
- 3-** Invites the Director General to pursue his efforts in this respect;
- 4-** Places this item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the Council.

**Item 4.4 of the Agenda
(Purchase of the official accommodation)
(Document C.E. 20/99/4.4)**

32- The Director General made a presentation on the document and indicated that the Executive Council had mandated him, at its 19th Session, to take the necessary measures concerning the purchase of the official accommodation. Accordingly, steps had been taken to find an accommodation appropriate in terms of construction, location and cost. The required accommodation was found and the purchasing operation was conducted, including the registration at the real estate registration department; the price for the accommodation was paid from ISESCO's Reserve Fund.

33- The Council members endorsed the measures taken. Thereupon, the Council took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.4 of the Agenda
(Purchase of ISESCO's Official Accommodation)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article (31) of the Personnel Regulations,
- Having considered document (CE 20/99/4.4) containing the report of the General Directorate in this respect,
- Recalling Decision CE 19/98/D 3.3 whereby the Executive Council mandates the Director General to take the necessary measures in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Adopts document (CE 20/99/4.4);
- 2- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for settling this matter.

**Item 4.7 of the Agenda
(Amendment of the Organization Chart of
the General Directorate of ISESCO)
(Document C.E. 20/99/4.7)**

34- The Director General made a presentation on the document relating to the amendment of the Organization Chart of the General Directorate, which proposed the creation of a directorate for planning, follow-up and evaluation. He indicated that the formulation of action plans fell under the very competence of ISESCO, underlining that the chances of success of any plan hinged on the

degree of its elaborateness, a fact which had a direct impact on the achievement of ISESCO's objectives. His Excellency pointed out the significant progress achieved in the planning process, which earned the satisfaction of the Council members. He also indicated that the planning processes built on the findings of the preliminary and post-evaluation operations, adding that the combination between the evaluation and planning results had proved to be hard most of the time in view of the lack of a mechanism, within the Organization Chart, that governed the organic relationship between planning and evaluation. He then put forward the proposal of the General Directorate to establish a directorate for planning, follow-up and evaluation, indicating that such a step would not entail the creation of new posts since the Organization would rely on existing staff.

- 35-** The Council members commended the proposal, and expressed their satisfaction with the fact that no further financial burdens would result from its implementation.

The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 4.7 of the Agenda
(Amendment of the Organization
Chart of ISESCO's General Directorate)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article (12) B, paragraph (1) of the Charter,
- Considering article (21), paragraph (j), of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council,
- Given the need to develop the planning, follow-up and evaluation operations discharged by ISESCO's General Directorate,
- Having considered the document presented by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Adopts the amendment of the Organization Chart of ISESCO's General Directorate as contained in document CE 20/99/4.7;

- 2- Thanks the Director General and his assistants for their efforts in preparing the said document.

Item 5.1 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Palestine)
(Document C.E. 20/99/5.1)

- 36- The Director General made a presentation on the efforts exerted by ISESCO in support of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine.
- 37- The Palestinian member of the Executive Council extended thanks to the Director General, and requested not to include the activities benefiting participants from Palestine in the list of efforts geared to the support of Palestinian institutions.

The Council, then, took the following decision :

Decision on Item 5.1 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Palestine)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of ISESCO's Charter,
- Recalling the Declaration on Solidarity with the Palestinian People, issued by the General Conference of ISESCO, at its Fourth Session, called Al-Quds Al-Sharif Session (Rabat, 28-30 November, 1991) as well as the previous decisions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference since 1982 pertaining to the support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine,
- In accordance with Decision CE 19/98/D 5.1 on the support of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine as well as on inviting the Director General to direct some programmes of the Action Plan 1998-2000 in such a way as to ensure the support of those institutions,
- Having considered the report presented by the Director General in this respect (Document CE 20/99/5.1),
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Expresses thanks to the Director General for his eagerness to implement the programmes designed to support the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine and preserve its heritage;
- 2- Expresses appreciation for the initiative taken by the Director General to pay a visit to Palestine, including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in March 1999, to take stock of the conditions of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions and identify their needs and priorities;
- 3- Invites the Member States and the institutions concerned to pool their efforts in order to contribute to the development of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine;
- 4- Invites the Director General to follow up the implementation of the programmes, designed for the benefit of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, included in ISESCO's Action Plan for the years 1998-2000.

**Item 5.2 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina)
(Document C.E. 20/99/5.2)**

- 38- The Director General made a presentation on the efforts exerted by ISESCO in supportfortheeducational,scientificandculturalinstitutionsinBosnia-Herzegovina.
- 39- The member of the Executive Council representing Bosnia-Herzegovina extended thanks to the Director General, and requested the General Directorate to take into account, in the upcoming programmes, the activities not yet carried out, in particular :
 - Printing, in the Bosnian language, the book "Let us learn Arabic".
 - Printing the books already prepared for the Bosnian schools.
 - Holding Islamic education and Arabic language sessions in other Bosnian towns.
 - Continuing the support extended to cultural institutions, the Arabic language department and the schools for the handicapped.

The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 5.2 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of ISESCO's Charter,
- Recalling the previous decisions adopted by the Executive Council on "ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina", including the last Decision CE 19/98/D 5.2 adopted by the Executive Council at its Nineteenth Session (Rabat, 19-24/11/1998),
- Having considered document CE 20/99/5.2 on "ISESCO's role in supporting the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina" as well as the assistance extended by ISESCO to Bosnia-Herzegovina in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1- Thanks the Director General for his continued efforts in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina;
 - 2- Supports the efforts of the Director General to extend assistance to the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina;
 - 3- Invites the Director General to continue implementation of the programmes geared to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina scheduled in ISESCO's Action Plan 1998-2000;
 - 4- Invites the Member States and the specialized institutions to extend assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the fields of education, science and culture.
- 40- The members of the Executive Council, the Director General and the General Directorate's staff paid a visit to Mohamed V Mausoleum, in which they recited the Fatiha and implored Almighty Allah to bestow His Mercy and Blessing upon His Majesty Mohamed V and His Majesty the late King Hassan II.

**Item 5.3 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia)
(Document C.E. 20/99/5.3)**

41- The Director General made a presentation on the efforts expended by ISESCO in support of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia.

42- In his intervention on the subject, the member of the Executive Council representing the Republic of Somalia, extended thanks to the Director General and put forward the following requests :

- to renew the contract of the professor assigned by ISESCO to the University of Somalia.
- to implement the activities geared to Somalia within Somalia itself in view of the currently stable security conditions.
- to carry out activities for the benefit of Somalia within the framework of cooperation with ALECSO.

The Council, then, took the following decision :

**Decision on Item 5.3 of the Agenda
(ISESCO's Role in Supporting Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia)**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of ISESCO's Charter,
- Referring to Decision CE 18/97/D 4.1 adopted by the Executive Council at its Eighteenth Session (Riyadh, 29/11/-4/12/1997) and approved by the Sixth General Conference by virtue of Resolution CG 6/97/R 4.4, and referring also to Decision C.E. 19/98/D 5.3 adopted by the Executive Council at its Nineteenth Session,
- Recalling the previous decisions of the Executive Council and the resolutions of the General Conference on ISESCO's role in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia,
- Having considered the report presented by the Director General in this respect,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- 1-** Thanks the Director General for his efforts in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions Somalia;

- 2- Invites the Director General to continue implementation of the programmes geared to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Somalia, scheduled in ISESCO's Action Plan 1998-2000;
- 3- Invites the Member States and the specialized institutions to extend assistance to Somalia in the fields of education, science and culture.

Item 6.1 of the Agenda
(Date and Venue of the 21st Council Session)
(Document C.E. 20/99/6.1)

43- Following deliberations on this item, the Council took the following decision :

Decision on Item 6.1 of the Agenda
(Date and Venue of the 21st Council Session)

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of article (10) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council whereby the Council sets, during each one of its sessions, the date and venue of the next session,
- In accordance with article (21) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council which stipulates that the Executive Council shall prepare for the meetings of the General Conference,
- Recalling Resolution CG 6/97/R 6.1 adopted by the Sixth General Conference (Riyadh, 6-9/12/1997) pertaining to the date and venue of the Seventh Session of the General Conference,
- Having considered document CE 20/99/6.1,
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

Decides the following :

- Convenes the twenty-first session of the Executive Council in November of the year 2000 in the Seat Country unless one of the Member States volunteers to host the Seventh Session of the General Conference.
- 44- The delegate of Senegal took the floor before the closing of the session and informed the Council members that UNESCO was working on a directory featuring the leading figures of the 20th century, who had made outstanding contributions in various domains. He suggested that the Islamic Organization

should highlight the contributions made by prominent Muslim scholars who had enriched, with their efforts and ideas, the educational, scientific, cultural and social heritage over the century, the purpose being to avoid that their names or contributions be omitted by the directory.

Closing Session : Friday, 17 Shaaban 1420 A.H. / 26 November, 1999

- 45-** At the beginning of that Session, the Council examined the Draft Final Report. Following the observations made by the Council members on the draft report, the Council adopted the Draft Report unanimously.
- 46-** The Council addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco for his lavish care and continuous support for ISESCO.

(Annex 8 : Message addressed to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco)

- 47-** Dr. Mufeed Hawamdeh, Secretary General of the Ministry of Education of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and representative of Jordan at the Executive Council and rapporteur of the Council on behalf of His Excellency Dr. Izzat Jaraddat, Minister of Education of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presented the Medal of Distinction to the Director General in recognition of the Jordanian Government for the outstanding performance of ISESCO's Director General, for his success in achieving the objectives of the Organization as well as for the great services rendered by the Islamic Organization to Jordan in its fields of competence.

The Jordanian Ministry of Education also presented the Medal of Distinction to the Chairman of the Council and representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh therein.

- 48-** His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO took the floor and thanked the members of the Executive Council for the efforts they had exerted in order to achieve the goals of that Session, and outlined the results they had achieved, in particular the adoption of ISESCO's Medium-Term Plan (2001-2009) as well as the broadlines of the Three-Year Action Plan for 2001-2003).

His Excellency, further, emphasized the vitality witnessed by that Session in terms of deliberations, decisions and recommendations. He also urged the

Council members to pursue their efforts with their respective countries in order to settle their contributions to ISESCO's budget, in particular the contributions concerning the Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000 so as not to be compelled to take more austerity measures because of the non-payment of contributions, measures which may affect programmes and the staff.

In conclusion, His Excellency reiterated his thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and the members of the Executive Council. He also thanked all those who had worked for that Session, with special thanks to the local authorities of the Seat country for the assistance and facilities they had provided to ensure the success of that Session.

**(Annex 9 : Address by His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri
Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)**

49- His Excellency Prof. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Chairman of the Executive Council delivered an address in which he thanked Almighty Allah for the great results reached by the Council at its twentieth Session, expressing his thanks and appreciation to all the Council members for their seriousness in examining the various items featuring on the agenda of that Session.

He also pointed out that this Session came at a time marking the end of the second millenium and the start of the third one and that the Council members were required to conduct a reappraisal of the achievements made by ISESCO under the sound leadership of the Director General and the Executive Council.

In conclusion, His Excellency expressed thanks and appreciation to the Council members, the General Directorate of ISESCO as well as to the translation team for their efforts in ensuring the success of that Session.

**(Annex 10 : Address by His Excellency Prof. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad,
Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
and Chairman of the Executive Council)**

Final Report