



**32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Council  
of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural  
Organization (ISESCO)**

**Final Report**

**Permanent Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco  
10-12 Rajab 1432 AH/13-15 June 2011**

# Final Report

The Executive Council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) held its 32<sup>nd</sup> session in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10-12 Rajab 1432 AH/13-15 June 2011. Taking part in this session were the members of the Council and their accompanying delegations, except for the representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Suriname, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Lebanon.

1. The opening session was presided over by Executive Council Chairman H.E. Dr Boubacar Doukouré, in the presence of H.E. Mr Taieb Bakkouche, Minister of Education of the Tunisian Republic, President of the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference of ISESCO, H.E. Dr Ahmed Akhchichine, Minister of Education, Higher Education, Executives Training and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO, along with a number of Member States' ambassadors to the Kingdom of Morocco, a representative of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, representatives of regional and international organizations, and a host of intellectuals, academics and media professionals.
2. After recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, H.E. Dr Boubacar Doukouré called to order the Executive Council's 32<sup>nd</sup> session with an address wherein he commended the successful work made by ISESCO. He also rejoiced at the fact that the Council's current session discussed the Draft Broad Lines and Priorities of the Three-Year Action Plan (2013-2015), which was prepared as part of strategic planning to meet the Member States' needs, especially with regard to development in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. Dr Doukouré also expressed pride at the successful achievement made by ISESCO, which he said is evidenced by the expanding network of cooperation relations it has with regional and international organizations.

He went on to explain that the Executive Council's 32<sup>nd</sup> session was held at a crucial point of time in the history of the Muslim Ummah. This, he stressed, means that we all have to work to the utmost of our abilities, with wisdom and measured actions, to best fulfill the civilizational mission taken by ISESCO.

Dr Doukouré also rejoiced at the high level of performance and remarkable success which, he underlined, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, with his wise leadership and far-sightedness, achieved for the Organization. He expressed appreciation for the conscientious effort which the Director General, invested with the trust of the Member States, is putting to advance the Organization, thus helping with the achievement of comprehensive development in the Member States.

Toward the end of his speech, Dr Doukouré thanked the attendance and wished full success to the Executive Council in its 32<sup>nd</sup> session.

3. Speaking to the Executive Council at its opening session, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri welcomed H.E. Mr Taieb Bakkouche, Education Minister of the Tunisian Republic, President of the 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference of ISESCO, the Executive Council's members and the other personalities in attendance. He also expressed thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and the Moroccan government for the constant support granted to ISESCO to accomplish its mission.

The Director General pointed out in his opening address that ISESCO has been constantly and significantly evolving in its quest to improve planning, implementation efficiency and performance, and explore new vistas, leveraging on cooperation and partnership relations with parallel Arab, Islamic regional and international organizations. He also added that ISESCO succeeded in strengthening its presence on the international arena, defending issues of global concern, including dialogue of cultures and alliance of civilizations, and promoting the values of justice, peace, tolerance and harmony between peoples and nations.

The constant progress and fine record of achievement made by ISESCO, Dr Altwaijri emphasized, are sure signs that the Organization is on the right track in its effort both to rebuild Islamic civilization, building on the trust not alone of the Member States but also of its partner regional and international organizations, and to lay down firm bases for comprehensive, sustainable development in relation to education, science, technology, culture, communication, environment, and childhood issues.

Stressing the importance ISESCO gives to the youth in Muslim communities, the Director General said that ISESCO has contributed a major portion to the celebration of the International Year of Youth 2010, and that it will continue in this line of action. He also explained that it was in this context that the Executive Council held a roundtable on “**Role of the Youth in Consolidating Civic Values and Protecting Human Rights in the Muslim World**”.

In addition, the Director General explained that the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Council was held amid global conditions marked by growing and accelerating changes and challenges for the Islamic world. These, he stressed, should be handled with wisdom and measured action, within joint Islamic action and in line with the resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference and sector-focused conferences.

4. Speaking to the Council's opening session, H.E. Mr Taieb Bakkouche, Tunisia's Education Minister, President of ISESCO's 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference, warmly greeted the audience and thanked them for their sympathy and support for the profound changes Tunisia is going through in its quest for development and progress, following the Tunisian peoples' revolution for freedom. He underlined that the educational, cultural and scientific policies by ISESCO are meant to serve the Muslim Ummah, especially the youth. He went on to explain that the youth, with their enthusiasm and undeterred resolve, is where the Ummah has to start to build a better future. He also stressed the need to mull over the Member States' educational curricula and programmes, in order to best meet the aspirations of the youth, and ensure they have a stake in the sought-after goals. Due and particular attention, he added, should be given to programmes focusing on education on citizenship as being central to educational policies. There is also, he stressed, the importance of stimulating critical thinking at educational institutions, by best qualifying teachers and rethinking the learning environment, in order to cultivate a culture of human rights and citizenship in society.

The President of ISESCO's 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference underlined that the progress by ISESCO demonstrates how extremely important is unity of efforts, with forward-looking vision. Talking about the Draft Broad Lines and Priorities of the Three-Year Action Plan (2013-2015), which were submitted to the Executive Council for consideration, Mr Bakkouche called for measuring changes, and seeing to it that the objectives and implementation mechanisms are tailored to best adapt to the challenges ahead. He also commended the effort made to link, under the 2013-2015 action plan, community and sustainable development issues to the education system, and called for consolidating the values of creative thinking and freedom of expression in the plan's implementation stages.

At the close of his address, Mr Bakkouche expressed recognition and appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco, the Seat Country, and thanked the Moroccan authorities for their unstinting support to ISESCO. He especially commended ISESCO Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman

Altwaijri for his continuous efforts to help ISESCO meet its noble objectives and civilizational mission.

5. Afterwards, Director General Dr Altwaijri handed ISESCO 2010 Prize for Literacy to the (Organization for Women and Child Care) in the Republic of Guinea. The prize was received on behalf of the Guinean organization by Mr Alhassan Souaré, Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the Executive Council.
6. Also significant, the Director General announced the official launch of the new website of ISESCO.
7. Accordingly, and as part of contribution by ISESCO to the celebration of the International Year of Youth, the Executive Council held a roundtable on “**Role of the Youth in Consolidating Civic Values and Protecting Human Rights in the Muslim World**”. Opening the roundtable, the Director General underlined that ISESCO started addressing youth issues under its action plans from the time the International Year of Youth was first proclaimed in 1985. Indeed, he explained, ISESCO played a major part in supporting the efforts of the international community to develop the ideas, visions, concepts and objectives set forth in the UN relevant resolution. ISESCO's activities in this direction, he added, consisted in convening international conferences and symposia; organizing workshops and seminars; and publishing books, studies and researches on youth-related issues. ISESCO Director General went on to stress that the focus on youth issues, with sound planning and measured actions, is indispensable to bring about comprehensive reform of both the present and future Muslim generations. This, he explained, was the motive for holding this roundtable with the objective of increasing awareness of the part the youth take in advancing human civilization, in the political, economic, social, cultural and scientific fields, and improving present and future life conditions.
8. The roundtable was addressed by H.E. Dr Boubacar Doukouré, ISESCO Executive Council Chairman, H.E. Mr Taieb Bakkouche, President of ISESCO 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference, and H.E. Mr Abdelfattah Ezzine, a Sociology Expert.
9. The speakers and participants were unanimous in underlying the importance of the roundtable, which crowned the activities undertaken by ISESCO within the International Year of Youth and the UN Millennium Development Goals Programme. They stressed that youth participation today has become an issue of serious concern, the more so as they are at the heart of the process for modernization, democratic reform and good

governance, which is a much-cherished issue for Arab Islamic countries. They also pointed out that youth and civil society participation in public affairs has gained momentum as a key to solid citizenship in contemporary societies.

The speakers also called on ISESCO to work out an action plan to measure the needs of the youth in light of the changes unfolding in certain member states, and foresee their aspirations, in order to best meet them. Besides, they emphasized the role of education and educational governance, with a participatory vision, in raising new generations and establishing firm bases for the progress and prosperity of societies, by increasing Muslim community awareness, starting from pre-school and early childhood through university. The aim, they stressed, should be to bring the youth to actively engage in political, social, educational, cultural and economic decision making in the Islamic countries has become a major community choice. They went on to explain that the events unfolding in the Arab region, a major portion of the Muslim world, stress the need to make best use of youth potentials, and give strong evidence that enabling the youth to live in dignity, by providing them with access to employment, and allowing for dialogue with the youth in an atmosphere of freedom, equal opportunity, justice, equal treatment with regard to rights and obligations, and active participation in the process for sustainable development, based on measured planning, knowledge economy and efficient management of resources and riches, human and others, is no less important. This, the participants, stressed is a strong necessity, a collective duty, a genuine right guaranteed to the youth, and a major driving force for the Muslim Ummah's civilizational resurgence.

- 10.** At the beginning of the first working session, the Executive Council Chairman and ISESCO Director General welcomed into the membership of the Executive Council the representatives of the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, the Tunisian Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Great Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia and the Republic of Niger. Thereafter, the Executive Council Chairman presented the Draft Agenda and Draft Programme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Council, which were discussed and adopted.

11. The Director General presented the Report on ISESCO's Activities in 2010. At the beginning of his presentation, he pointed out that the activities implemented during the reported period were informed by the orientations of the Medium-Term Plan (2010-2018), and directed toward the key objectives of the Three-Year Action Plan (2010-2012), in compliance with the resolutions of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference, the recommendations of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Executive Council sessions, and the resolutions, outcome and recommendations of relevant Islamic conferences.

The Director General underlined that in 2010 ISESCO implemented 470 activities, accounting for 84% of the overall 560 activities scheduled in education, science, culture, communication and information. This, he explained, marked a substantial increase, compared with the number of activities implemented in 2009 (with an 80% implementation rate).

He added that the activities implemented spanned the Organization's different fields of action, thus totaling 130 activities in education, 163 in science, 150 in culture and communication, and 27 in external relations and cooperation.

He further explained that in those areas, ISESCO organized 27 conferences, 37 meetings and symposia, 118 activities (expert meetings, seminars and regional and sub-regional training sessions), and 69 national sessions. ISESCO also developed and produced 51 guides, reports and studies, and dispatched 19 Arabic language and Islamic education teachers to universities and Islamic Arab education institutions in a number of states in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, 16 research works and books were translated, printed and published.

89 activities were also implemented which featured technical and financial support, and scholarships granted to students both in the Member States and among Muslim communities outside the Islamic world. In addition, ISESCO joined up with regional and international organizations sharing common interest in the implementation of 26 activities. Furthermore, the Director General stated that ISESCO implemented 13 activities in pursuance of its action within its centres for audiovisual and multimedia production, literacy and training of Arabic language and Islamic education teachers. Further attention was also devoted to academic chairs, particularly specialized university chairs. Moreover, he pointed out that ISESCO continued modernizing and updating its website according to international standards, including the links which provide an overview on Islamic culture capitals. In the same vein, seeking to make use of ICT's in

achieving human development, building capacities and spreading knowledge and culture, ISESCO in 2010 edited 30 books and studies on various educational, scientific, cultural and communication issues at its digital printing unit. Besides, it continued posting its new publications on the internet in full-text format and in the Organization's three working languages with a view to rectifying the misconceptions about Islamic values, culture and civilization.

At the end of his presentation, the Director General expressed the Organization's aspiration to realize further achievements for the Member States and its keenness to go further in the promotion of its civilizational mission, while hailing the cooperative efforts of its Member States as well as international and regional partners.

**12.** During discussion on the Director General's Report on ISESCO's Activities in 2010, the observations of the Council members focused on what follows:

- Commending the activities implemented during the year 2010 in terms of quality and quantity, and the increase in the implementation rate compared with that of the year 2009;
- Hailing the efforts exerted by the Director General and his assistants to carry out the maximum number of activities for the benefit of Member States and Muslims outside the Muslim world;
- Exploring the possibility of raising the allowances granted by the General Directorate to the National Commissions to cover the organizational costs of the national and regional activities they supervise;
- Combining activities as major programmes in such a way as to ensure achievement of the desired objectives and field impact;
- Working towards putting into practice the internal and external assessment mechanisms of the activities implemented in such a way as to develop and improve working methods;
- Calling for promoting the programme of scholarships for the students of Member States and encouraging exchange of students and teachers between universities;
- Fostering cooperation and solidarity among competent parties in the Member States to help address development requirements in ISESCO's fields of competence within the most needy Member States;



- Enhancing ISESCO's efforts towards the preservation of the cultural and civilizational heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif through the Islamic Heritage Committee with a view to countering the judaization attempts made by the Israeli occupation authorities.

**13.** Thereafter, the Council approved the Report of the Director General on ISESCO's Activities for the Year 2010 and expressed its thanks to the Director General and his assistants for their outstanding efforts to follow up the implementation of programmes and rationalize expenditure, while taking into account the fulfillment of the pressing needs of the Member States and Muslim communities and minorities. It also commended the steady efforts being exerted by the Director General to expand the scope of cooperation with regional and international organizations as well as with Arab and Islamic institutions towards the implementation of the scheduled programmes. Besides, the Council members agreed to submit this report to the forthcoming General Conference, with recommendation for endorsement.

**14.** The Director General presented the Financial Report and Closing Accounts for Financial Year 2010, which includes the closing accounts of the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010. He highlighted that the overall contributions received from the Member States for the financial year 2010 totaled US\$ 11,288,190 of which US\$ 10,282,113.84 correspond to the Member States' contributions for 2010 and the previous years. The Director General also stated that ISESCO managed to secure off-contribution resources totalling US\$ 243,279.62, thanks to the personal and intensive contact made by the Director General with a number of personalities and institutions to obtain support for some programmes and projects. In this respect, he pointed out that the resources collected to support some joint programmes totaled an amount of US\$ 762,769; they were received from the World Islamic Call Society in the Libyan Jamahiriya, the International Islamic Charitable Organization in the State of Kuwait, the General Presidency for Meteorology and Environment Protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the World Bank.

**15.** Subsequently, the representative of the audit company presented his company's report for the financial year 2010. Similarly, the rapporteur of the Financial Control Committee presented the Report of the Committee for the financial year 2010. He explained that the Committee examined the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts for 2010 and the Report of the Audit Company on the accounts of the Organization

for the financial year 2010, and noted that this report reflects the accuracy of ISESCO's administrative, financial and accounting procedures. The Committee conveyed its appreciation of the distinguished efforts of the General Directorate towards promoting ISESCO's financial performance. In addition, it commended the policy adopted by the General Directorate in rationalizing expenditures. Besides, it hailed the efforts of the Director General in collecting additional resources for the implementation of activities, rationalizing expenditure and improving the Organization's working mechanisms. Furthermore, the Committee extended its thanks to the personalities and parties that make donations to the Organization and support its activities and programmes.

After deliberations, the Executive Council adopted the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts, the Report of the Audit Company and the Report of the Financial Control Committee for the Financial Year 2010. The Council also commended the Director General's efforts in collecting financial resources, rationalizing expenditure and improving the Organization's working mechanisms. Besides, the Council invited the Director General to continue his endeavours and carry on his fruitful efforts to obtain further support for the Organization's activities. In addition, the Council extended its thanks to all personalities and parties that have made donations to the Organization and invited them to continue supporting ISESCO. By the same token, the Council thanked the Financial Control Committee and the Audit Company for preparing their reports. Then, the Council agreed to submit this report, with a recommendation for endorsement, to the forthcoming General Conference.

- 16.** Afterwards, the Director General presented his Report on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization for the Year 2010. In this regard, he highlighted the situation of the contributions obtained from Member States and arrears accrued in 2010 and the previous financial years. He also pointed to the efforts of the Executive Council and the Director General to urge Member States to settle their contributions to the Organization's budget, and follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> General Conference sessions regarding the incentives for exemption from arrears.

In addition, the Director General explained that the contributions collected during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 reached US\$ 10,282,113.84, of which an amount of US\$ 7,730,243.62 was obtained for the financial year 2010, and US\$ 2,551,870.22 representing contributions

paid in full or in part for previous financial years. Besides, he noted that the overall contributions of Member States collected under the financial year 2010 are below the adopted annual budget estimated at US\$ 13,700,151.00.

As for contributions of the Member States since the year 1982 up to 31 December 2010, the Director General stated that they reached US\$ 73,470,116.21. This is due, the Director General explained, to the failure by some Member States to pay their contributions scheduled under ISESCO's budget, and because of other Member States' slow response to the incentives given to Member States up to 2002.

Being aware of the keen interest taken by the Executive Council in the issue of collecting Member States' contributions to the Organization budget and settling financial arrears, the Director General made reference to the intensive efforts he exerted to urge a number of Member States to settle their arrears.

- 17.** After deliberations, the Council adopted the Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and on Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization for 2010. The Council also expressed thanks and appreciation to the Director General for his efforts to intensify contact with the Member States in order to collect contributions, as well as for his efforts to promote cooperation with international organizations in order to support the Organization's activities and programmes. Besides, the Council called upon the Member States which have not yet paid up their contributions to the Organization and those in arrears to settle their contributions and arrears in order to honour their commitments and enable the Organization to discharge its duties. In addition, the Council invited the Director General to continue coordination and consultation with the Member States in arrears with a view to collecting these arrears and agreeing on practical mechanisms for the payment thereof, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Conference and the Executive Council. Furthermore, the Council commissioned the Director General to make contact with the competent parties in the OIC Member States which have not joined yet ISESCO to urge them to join it, with a view to supporting joint Islamic action.

The Council agreed to submit this report, with a recommendation for endorsement, to the forthcoming session of the General Conference.

- 18.** In furtherance of the Organization's efforts in planning future action, and in a bid to put the orientations contained in the Medium-Term Plan for the years 2010-2018 into practice, the Director General presented the Draft

Broad Lines and Priorities of the Three-Year Action Plan (2013-2015) which draws the roadmap for the General Directorate during the coming three-year action plan to assume the role entrusted to it by the Member States and enhance efforts in its fields of action towards fulfilling its civilizational mission and responding to the needs and priorities of Member States and Islamic communities and minorities.

19. During the discussions, the observations of the Council members focused on what follows:

- Commending the quality of the document submitted, with its content and the priority areas outlined in it;
- Welcoming the General Directorate's trend towards devising major, integrated projects to avoid duplication and fragmentation of efforts and have a more substantial impact on the field;
- Trading on the outcome of the roundtable on "**Role of the Youth in Consolidating Civic Values and Protecting Human Rights in the Muslim World**", in implementing the Organization's activities geared to the youth, by encouraging the relevant parties in the Member States to integrate these elements in social policies aiming to promote youth issues, and in promoting good governance capacities of educational, scientific and cultural systems in the Member States; and benefiting from and spreading Member States' successful experiences, with attention given to developing a project to promote peace culture and dialogue values among the youth;
- Calling on the Organization to focus on implementing training and trainer training programmes in education, science, culture and communication, and providing necessary technical and financial support to the Member States in this connection;
- Strengthening efforts by the Member States to build scientific capacities and foster scientific research, and providing expertise to help with best qualifying ICT executives to reduce the digital gap between developed and developing countries in the Islamic world;
- Enlarging the Organization's scope of action with regard to circulating the true image of Islam and Muslims to cover, in addition to Europe and America, other parts of the world;
- Working out and implementing programmes to publicize the true image of Islam and Muslims, instead of defensive programmes;

- Promoting teaching of the Arabic language to native and non-native speakers, and the languages of minorities;
- Stressing the necessity to work out standard criteria regarding assessment and recognition of academic qualifications at universities in the Member States;
- Stimulating reading by promoting ISESCO's programme on establishing reading centres, especially in remote areas.

**20.** Then, the Council adopted the Draft Broad Lines and Priorities of the Three-Year Action Plan (2013-2015), and thanked the Director General and his assistants for their efforts in preparing this draft document. It also welcomed his proposal to distribute the document of the broad lines to the National Commissions and competent parties in Member States for study and elaboration and hold a meeting of senior experts in the Islamic world in the areas of education, science culture and communication to help the General Directorate work out the details of the Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2013-2015 in such a way as to keep abreast of recent developments in the Arab, regional and international scene and respond to Members States' requirements and needs. Besides, the Council commissioned ISESCO Director General to have the draft of this Plan prepared for submission to the 33rd session of the Council, in line with the general guidelines of the Broad Lines and Priorities, and the Medium-Term Plan (2010-2018), and in keeping with the Member States' needs, requests and priorities.

**21.** In an in-camera session, the Council adopted the document presented by the Director General on the draft amendment to the table of monthly salaries and the tables of per diem and monthly allowances of ISESCO's staff members, as contained in Document (EC32/2011/3.1).

The Council also agreed to raise the allowances of its members by 30%.

**22.** The Council decided to hold its 33<sup>rd</sup> session in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ahead of the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference. It also entrusted the Director General with setting the date of the session in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.