



**FINAL REPORT OF
THE SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

Islamabad, Pakistan : 3-5 September, 1985

1. The opening session of the 2nd General Conference of ISESCO was held on Tuesday 17 Zul Hijja 1405/3 September 1985, in Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, President of Pakistan.

Attending were the Secretary General of OIC, His Excellency Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, His Excellency Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, Federal Minister for Education, Government of Pakistan, His Excellency Dr. Azzedine Laraki, Chairman of the First General Conference, Mr. Rasheed Abdelaziz Al Mubarak, Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council and His Excellency Professor Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Director General of ISESCO. Delegations from 29 member countries and 5 non-member countries attended the Conference. The majority of these delegations were led by Ministers of Education. International organizations and institutions operating in ISESCO's fields of activity also participated.

2. In his capacity as Chairman of the First General Conference His Excellency Dr. Azzedine Laraki, Minister of Education and Chief delegate from the Kingdom of Morocco, called the meeting to order. Following recitation from the Holy Qur'an, the Federal Minister of Education, Pakistan, His Excellency Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto delivered a welcome address on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and wished the Conference success in its proceedings (*Annex-1*).

3. Mr. Rasheed Abdelaziz Al Mubarak, head of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Chairman of ISESCO Executive Council, then, addressed the Conference and pointed out the various challenges facing the Muslim Ummah, as well as the role that should be played by ISESCO in this respect. He also referred to the difficulties besetting the Organization, particularly with regard to non-payment of contributions by Member States. On behalf of the Executive Council, he called on Member States to provide ISESCO with the necessary means to carry on its activities, through prompt and timely disbursement of their share in the Organization's budget (*Annex-2*).

4. Dr. Azzedine Laraki, President of the First General Conference delivered the Chairman's address in which he paid tributes for the welcome extended by the President, the Government and the people of Pakistan, and praised the efforts made by ISESCO since its inception, in meeting the difficulties which usually affect similar international organizations in their formative stages, especially with respect to their limited resources. He also commended the efforts of His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Director General, and his assistants, in strengthening the foundations of ISESCO. Finally, he expressed his confidence in the Organization's future under the Director General's wise leadership (*Annex-3*).

5. Subsequently, His Excellency Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Director General of ISESCO, delivered his speech in which he thanked His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for his solicitude for the Conference, for the efforts made by his Government to organize the Conference and for the warm welcome extended to the

delegations. In his address, the Director General gave an account of the situation of ISESCO since the first General Conference in Casablanca, and of the first year's programme as well as the two-year plan of action, and introduced the draft plan of action submitted to the present Conference. He described the role that should be played by Islamic States in the international context and emphasized that whether in the East or in the West, education, science and culture constitute the very foundation of progress (*Annex-4*).

6. Then, His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC, Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, in his address welcomed participants to the Conference and congratulated the Director General of ISESCO on the progress achieved by ISESCO under his leadership. He congratulated the Islamic World on the success of ISESCO in the fulfilment of its mission. He called for the efficient utilization of the available resources and for the consolidation of cooperation between ISESCO and institutions affiliated to the OIC.

The Secretary General of OIC emphasized the important role that ISESCO must play in the fields of education, science and culture, and in the eradication of illiteracy. The Secretary General concluded his speech by expressing the wish that the General Conference renew the term of office of Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb as Director General of ISESCO and affirming that the work done by Prof. Boutaleb in the three-year period constitutes a guarantee for the future of ISESCO in the next period as well (*Annex-5*).

7. His Excellency, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Muhammad Zia-Ul-Haq delivered an inspiring speech in which he welcomed participants in the Conference, and laid emphasis on the action of ISESCO in the Islamic domain. He also welcomed the proposal to renew the mandate of the Director General, Professor Boutaleb. He then explained the importance of education in shaping the social fabric of people and determining the progress of nations, quoting the example of some countries which made education the basis of their development, such as Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

His Excellency described the identity of Pakistan since the advent of Islam in South West Asia, how the idea of the State of Pakistan was conceived by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and how it was later translated into action under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He concluded by affirming that Pakistan would pursue its Islamic course, for Islam was not constituted by just a set of precepts but encompassed a way of life as well (*Annex-6*).

8. The Chairman of the First General Conference paid tributes to President General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq for his impressive speech and proposed that this speech should be adopted as one of the official documents of the Conference. This proposal was unanimously adopted.

9. Working Sessions:

a) The first point considered was the Agenda of the Conference, some items of which were examined, particularly item 5 pertaining to the work plan and item 6 pertaining to the

budget. It was agreed that these two items should be merged into one. Then the Conference adopted the agenda thus amended.

b) Election of the Conference Bureau:

The members of the this Bureau were elected for a period of three years as follows :

- His Excellency Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, Federal Minister of Education, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as Chairman.
- His Excellency Abdulwahab Al Majali, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Jordan, as Vice-Chairman.
- His Excellency Datuk, Abdullah Badawi, Minister of Education, Malaysia, as Vice-Chairman.
- His Excellency Iba der Thiam, Minister of National Education in charge of Higher Education, Senegal, as Vice-Chairman.
- His Excellency Mohammed Ezze Deen Scharaff, the Leader of the Egyptian Delegation as Rapporteur.

At this stage, the newly elected Chairman of the Conference, His Excellency Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, occupied the chair which was vacated by the outgoing Chairman, H.E. Azzeddine Laraki. The new Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Assembly for electing him. He complimented the outgoing Chairman for the wise and efficient conduct of the Assembly business during his term.

c) Election of the Director General of the Organization

The General Conference unanimously agreed to renew the mandate of His Excellency Professor Abdelhadi Boutaleb for a second three-year term of office.

d) Report of the Executive Council to the General Conference

This report was read out by Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director of the Islamic Research Centre for History, Arts and Culture in Istanbul, Member and Rapporteur of the Executive Council. In this report, he reviewed the activities of the Council during the interval between the first and the second sessions of the General Conference. The report was adopted by the Conference (see *Annex 7*).

e) Report of the Director General

His Excellency Professor Abdelhadi Boutaleb presented a summary report on the activities of ISESCO for the period between the first and the second sessions of the General Conference. He pointed out that ISESCO had been able to implement its two-year plan for the period 1403-1405H/1983-1985. He reported on the difficulties faced by ISESCO in the implementation of its work plan, particularly the financial difficulties, and referred to the broad lines and to the preparatory work with respect to the draft three-year plan of action. The

Director General's report on the activities of ISESCO was adopted by the Conference (see *Annex-8*).

f) Election of One third of the members of the Executive Council

Following discussion on this question, the Conference decided to set up a committee to look into the matter. This committee was composed of :

- The Deputy Leader of Pakistan Delegation.
- Three Vice-Chairmen, Jordan, Malaysia, Senegal and representatives from Qatar and Guinea Bissau, in addition to representatives of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and representative of ISESCO's Director General.

The Committee accordingly met the same day. After due deliberations, it made the following proposals. These were submitted to the General Conference by the Committee Chairman, the representative of the Pakistan delegation:

1. Five out of 15 Council members, namely the three personalities selected by the OIC Secretary General and two heads of OIC institutions, be changed.
2. The nine representatives of Member States on the Executive Council be retained.
3. The three personalities be chosen on the basis of proposals by the OIC Secretary General in consultation with the Director General of ISESCO.
4. Two new institutions affiliated to the Organization of the Islamic Conference be elected following consultations between Secretary General, OIC, and Director General, ISESCO.
5. This be considered as a temporary measure, till the amendments of the present Statute come into effect. The General Conference adopted the Committee's proposals.

10. Draft Plan of Action and Draft Budget

a) In his introductory statement on the draft budget, the Director General of the Organization pointed out that it contained 18 educational, 8 scientific, 10 cultural, 12 general and 5 extra-budgetary projects. He also underlined some projects of particular importance, such as the eradication of illiteracy. In addition, he emphasized some policy guidelines including ISESCO's commitment to austerity measures with respect to expenditure. Then, he introduced the budget under various headings and provided the relevant comments.

b) During the discussion, delegates who took the floor, included the representatives of Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Brunei Darussalam, Oman, Tunisia and Syria. Some delegates called for curbing the proposed increase in the budget while others, such as the representatives of The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea, Palestine, Morocco and Mali requested that the proposed increase be maintained in order to achieve progress in the pursuit of objectives.

The representative of the Islamic World League called for support to the Organization with the necessary means of action. He then thanked the Director General of ISESCO for preparing a cooperation agreement with the League.

In his statement, the Secretary General of the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization reported on the activities of his institution in the field of information and expressed the readiness of his Organization to work in cooperation with ISESCO in areas of common interest.

11. The Conference resumed its proceedings on 19 Zul Hijja 1405H/September 4, 1985, with further debate on the budget and the plan of action.

12. The Head of the delegation of Malaysia proposed that emphasis should be laid on education and the teaching of Arabic to non-Arabic people. He also suggested that the project of regional offices be discarded and replaced with national commissions financed by States. The representative of Bangladesh proposed the adoption of the draft budget as submitted by the General Directorate, in view of the need for Islamic States to support Islamic education and the teaching of Arabic and related subjects. He made a statement on the needs of Bangladesh in this respect.

The Pakistan delegation supported the draft budget after analyzing its components and proposed that the project of regional offices could be reconsidered to achieve economy.

13. The Head of the Egyptian delegation made a statement on the subject, addressing both points of view, stressing that all parties do meet on common grounds, namely the need for supporting ISESCO in its noble mission. He referred to the determination of Egypt to support Muslims and ISESCO. He appealed to Member States to make their due contributions and fulfil the need of Muslim Ummah.

14. The Conference then moved to consider the question of setting up an ad-hoc committee to examine the budget and programmes, and to submit proposals to the Conference, as suggested by the Jordanian delegation and seconded by various members. Upon a suggestion from the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Committee was set up with membership made up of representatives of the following countries: Pakistan, Malaysia, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Qatar, Mali and Oman. A representative from the General Directorate also attended.

15. Then, Mr. Rajae Garaudy, an eminent Muslim thinker, made a statement in which he dealt with the civilizational crisis of the West and the role Muslims in this part of the world expect from ISESCO. Furthermore, he refuted the positivist philosophy which opposes every religious feeling and leads man to perdition. He then requested that ISESCO should:

- a) participate in the revival of the spirit of the Islamic University in Cordoba.
- b) establish the Geneva Institute, in the service of lofty Islamic goals.

16. The representative of ALECSO took the floor and commended the role played by ISESCO in the Islamic World. He expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation and coordination agreement signed between the two organizations, including the meeting of experts from the two institutions. Furthermore, he reaffirmed ALECSO's commitment to the contents of the agreement and to the programmes the two organizations are to implement jointly, such as translation of Islamic books into Arabic and the revival of the role of the Arabic script in recording the non-Arab Islamic heritage. He also expressed his deep appreciation of ISESCO's participation in the Board of Governors of the international cooperation organization for the development of Arabic Islamic Culture abroad. He also expressed his satisfaction as to the formulation and clarity of the programmes set forth in the plan of action of the Organization.

17. The representative of the International Centre for Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA) took the floor to stress the objectives which led to the setting up of the International Centre, listing the countries participating in it. He also praised the cooperative relations existing between ISESCO and CICIBA which stand as an example of cooperation between the Arab-Islamic countries and the African world.

18. a) The chair, then read out a message, addressed to the Conference by His Highness Sheikh Zayd bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Head of State of the United Arab Emirates, calling for the enhancement of unity within the Muslim Ummah and the strengthening of cooperation between its members in order to achieve progress. In reply, the Conference sent a message of thanks to His Highness.

18. b) Executive Council member Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director General of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, emphasized the importance of coordination among the institutions operating in the same fields. He also reviewed the Centre's achievements.

19. Then, Dr. Ali Kettani, Executive Council member and Director of the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development, took the floor to underline the importance of the role played by ISESCO in the service of the Islamic nations. Then, he spoke of the role of IFSTAD and its achievements.

20. Dr. Tawfik Shawi, Director of the World Federation of International Arab Islamic Schools, stressed the significant role played by this institution in the service of Arab Islamic schools. He made an in-depth analysis of the Federation's project which is being carried out in the city of Peshawar (Pakistan) and is aimed at providing educational opportunities to Afghan refugees and protecting their Islamic cultural heritage against the threats besetting it.

21. The Conference then discussed the report of the Financial Control Committee as well as the closing accounts for 1983-84/1984-85. In this respect, the Director General briefed the Conference on the two meetings of the Committee as well as on its recommendations to the General Conference and its observations on the financial administrative policies followed by the General Directorate of the Organization. Upon consideration of the question, the General Conference adopted the report of the Financial Committee and the closing accounts.

22. The Head of the delegation of Kuwait pointed out that his country would pay its contribution only after the National Assembly of Kuwait approves the Statute of ISESCO, but it could not pay shares relating to the earlier budget of ISESCO. In his reply to the representative of Kuwait, the Director General stated that the quotas of Member States' contributions are determined in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Organization. The two delegations of Qatar and Oman expressed some reservation as to the quotas applied to their countries. Moreover, the United Arab Emirates reaffirmed the commitment of that country to pay its contributions to ISESCO's budget, upon examination of all its items. The representative of Jordan and Tunisia took a similar stand.

23. The budgetary committee ended its deliberations and its Chairman, the delegate of Pakistan, placed its recommendations before the Conference, which are as follows:

- a) the budget ceiling be fixed at 24,300,000 US\$ for the three years (July 1985 to July 1988).
- b) the opening of regional offices be postponed except for the European office which should be established within the framework of the above budget.
- c) budget allocations over the three years be made by the General Directorate according to requirements confining salary increase to 5% per annum instead of the proposed 10%.
- d) in setting budget appropriations, priority be given to programmes over operating expenditure and overlaps in the programmes be avoided.
- e) the reduction in the budget be not allowed to affect programmes pertaining to teaching the Arabic language and Islamic education.

The Conference adopted the recommendations of the Committee. It also decided that the European office of ISESCO be established in Geneva. (See Resolution on adoption of the budget, *Annex 9*).

24. Replacement of one third of the members of the Executive Council

His Excellency, the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in consultation with the Director General of ISESCO nominated the following personalities and institutions to serve on the Council for the next term. The nominations were conveyed to the Chairman, who presented them to the Conference:

Personalities

- Mr. Kemal Karpat, Professor, Wisconsin University.
- His Excellency Mr. Amine Ageel Attas, Assistant Secretary General, Islamic World League, Makkah Al Mukarramah.
- Dr. Mohammad Abu Alwafa Taftazani, Vice-President, Cairo University.

Institutions

- Islamic Development Bank
- Islamic Research Centre for Statistical and Economic Studies - Ankara
- The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), shall continue to serve on the Executive Council.

The Conference adopted these proposals and elected the above mentioned personalities and institutions as members of the Executive Council.

At this stage, the Chairman of the General Conference, H.E. Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, left the house and in his absence the leader of Senegalese delegation, H.E. Iba der Thiam, one of the three newly elected Vice-Chairmen, occupied the chair.

25. The Conference examined the question of determining the rates of Member States' contributions to ISESCO's budget and adopted a resolution to the effect that the matter be referred to the Director General would consult Member States and submit specific proposals to the Executive Council for approval. The Conference requested that Member States' refrain from taking any unilateral action in this respect.

26. Personnel Regulations

The Director General introduced the item on the amendments to the Personnel Regulations and provided the relevant explanations. The Conference adopted the proposed amendments as already approved by the Executive Council.

27. ISESCO's Headquarters

The Conference decided to address a message of thanks to His Majesty, King of Morocco, for his kind gesture to finance the construction of headquarters of ISESCO. The chief delegate of Tunisia drafted the message which was approved (*Annex 10*).

28. Observer Status

The Conference discussed the document prepared by the General Directorate after the Director General had explained the objectives expected to be achieved by its adoption, e.g. generation of more meaningful interaction between ISESCO and other similar organizations. The Conference adopted the document (*Annex 11*) with the insertion of the following paragraph: «the observer status of OIC-related institutions would be proposed by OIC Secretary General in consultation with ISESCO's Director General, and submitted to the General Conference for approval».

At this stage, the Chairman returned to the house and occupied the chair.

29. The Conference discussed the document prepared by the General Directorate in connection with a draft Islamic Convention on recognition of university diplomas, qualifications and degrees in Islamic States. After thorough discussion of this question, the

Conference decided to refer the matter to the General Directorate for further examination and called on Member States to supply the General Directorate with the required data.

30. Cooperation agreements

The Conference reviewed the cooperation agreements between ISESCO and:

1. The Islamic Development Bank.
2. The International Centre for Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA).
3. The Islamic World League.
4. The Islamic Call Society.

The Conference adopted all of the above agreements (*Annex 12*) stressing that the General Directorate should in future report to the Member States the drafts of agreements before submitting them to the General Conference.

31. Then, the Conference moved to discuss the next agenda item on the convening of a special session of the General Conference. The Director General explained the reasons which prompted the General Directorate to call for a special session of the General Conference to be devoted to revising the Statute of the Organization. After discussion of the question, it was decided that the extraordinary session of the General Conference shall be held at ISESCO's headquarters in Rabat, in October, 1986.

It was decided that it be a limited Conference attended by one representative of each Member State, and that the representative be at minister level.

The Conference was attended by 29 Islamic States which are members of ISESCO. In addition, delegations of five OIC member countries (Iran, Turkey, Algeria, Benin and Uganda) which have not yet signed the ISESCO Statute, also attended the Conference. The leader of Iranian delegation made a statement stressing the need for the unity of the Ummah countries. Representatives of international organizations and a number of guests also attended (*Annex 13*).

The Conference expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mohammad Khan Junejo. It also expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and the tremendous efforts to ensure the success of this Conference for the benefit of the whole Ummah.

The Conference expressed its deep appreciation to the Director General of the Organization for the laudable efforts that he and his colleagues had made to ensure the best conditions for the Conference and to prepare the various documents and materials necessary to the proceedings.

The Conference adopted the final report of the General Conference.

32. Concluding Session

The concluding session of the Conference was presided over by H.E. Mohammad Khan Junejo, Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Director General of ISESCO, Professor Abdelhadi Boutaleb, and the Chairman of the General Conference, H.E. Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, welcoming the Prime Minister, expressed their gratitude to him for his keen interest in the success of the Conference and for accepting the invitation to preside over the concluding session despite his multifarious engagements. The Chairman of the General Conference informed the Prime Minister that the Second General Conference of ISESCO had taken some fundamental decisions that will bring concrete results to the entire Ummah.

The Prime Minister in his presidential address expressed great satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the General Conference and stressed the role of Islamic Organizations like ISESCO in promoting cooperation and unity amongst the Ummah countries. He also emphasized the importance of science and technology in enabling the Ummah countries to face the challenges of the modern times. The Prime Minister reiterated the commitment of Pakistan to work for the Unity and Progress of the Ummah.

On behalf of the delegations of their respective regions, the three Vice-Chairmen, His Excellency Abdulwahab Al Majali from Jordan, His Excellency Datuk Abdullah Badawi, from Malaysia and His Excellency Iba der Thiam, from Senegal expressed their deep appreciation of the excellent arrangements made the Government of Pakistan for the successful holding of the Second General Conference. They were of the view that the historic conference had been held in an atmosphere of complete cordiality and amity which had further cemented the bonds of brotherhood existing between the Islamic countries.

The Conference concluded with vote of thanks to the chair.

(Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb)

(Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo)
Minister for Education,
Government of Pakistan and
Chairman of the 2nd General Conference
of ISESCO