



**NINTH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
-ISESCO-**

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco: 8 – 10 December 2006

Final Communiqué

With the Grace of Allah, the General Conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- convened its ninth session in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, from 16 to 18 Zul Qida 1427 A.H., corresponding to 8-10 December 2006, under the high patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, may Allah preserve him, with the participation of all Member States, except the following states: The Republic of Suriname, Republic of Lebanon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and in the presence of the representatives of Arab, Islamic and international organizations and the invited personalities.

The Conference opened with the royal message addressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah preserve him, to the Conference members. The message bespeaks of the recognition of His Majesty of the importance of the current session, and reflects the interest he takes in the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the support he lends to its civilizational mission and noble objectives.

The royal message was read out at the start of the opening session by H.E. Dr. Abbas Jirari, Advisor to His Majesty the King. The message said: “the convening of the ninth session of ISESCO’s General Conference in the capital city of Morocco attests to the strong desire of Islamic Member States to attain the objectives of joint Islamic action in the Organization’s fields of competence”.

His Majesty added “ISESCO’s General Conference is therefore called upon to promote joint Islamic action in these vital scientific areas, through the resolutions which will be adopted and which are likely to revitalize the Organization’s action. ISESCO’s activities are gaining in scope and dynamism, year after year, and the Organization is opening up new international prospects for itself, through its endeavours in the areas of cultural dialogue, the alliance of civilizations, and promotion of the culture of peace and coexistence”.

The royal message contained judicious directives, bright ideas and an enlightened vision to the changes taking place in the Islamic world, the challenges facing it and the responsibilities incumbent upon it.

The royal message paid tribute to the Islamic Organization -ISESCO- and its officials, lauding its achievements and commending the role it plays in promoting joint Islamic action.

The Conference decided to adopt the royal message as a working document from which its members will draw insight when dealing with the issues and topics placed on the agenda.

Then the floor was held by Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO-, who thanked His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his patronage of the Conference and for the message he addressed to its members. In this connection, he said that the Organization, in the period between the 8th and 9th sessions of the General Conference, has made enormous, continuous strides in the achievement of its objectives and the implementation of the resolutions issued by the 8th General Conference, particularly the Three-year Action Plan 2004-2006. He described this plan as really distinguished at all levels: in terms of orientations, contents, programmes and projects; in terms of performance, implementation, follow-up and evaluation; and in terms of results which have benefited all Member States as well as Muslim communities in non-member states, especially in migrants' hosting countries.

The Director General talked then about the new three-year Action Plan which will be adopted by the Conference. He said that this Plan, which is the ninth of its kind, includes 21 fields, 64 axes, 206 major programmes and projects, and 1461 activities. He stated that the number of activities scheduled under the current plan has increased by 22,8%, the equivalent of 1190 activities, as compared with the Three-year Action Plan 2004-2006. The General Directorate of ISESCO has set four subsidiary strategic objectives which it intends to achieve during the three coming years. These objectives are: developing the educational system to reduce illiteracy in its broad sense; contributing to generalized access to education; contributing to the achievement of sustainable development; promoting scientific research to disseminate knowledge and to channel its benefits into development; effecting the role of cultural action in the development of society; establishing peace and coexistence among peoples; and contributing to the bridging of the digital divide between the Member States and the scientifically and technologically advanced countries.

The Director General stressed that under the new Action Plan, focus in the field of education is put on four major issues: promoting efforts in literacy as a part of education for all; implementing the educational and developmental role of original education institutions; gearing higher education towards the service of comprehensive development; and developing the educational system. As for the field of science, five major issues have been defined, which consist in continuing support for the capacities of the Member States in the fields of technology and scientific research; gearing scientific and technological education towards the development of knowledge; exploiting natural resources without prejudice to sustainable development; preserving the environment and overcoming the effects of natural disasters; and promoting research in social sciences for the benefit of society.

The floor was held during the opening session also by Dr. Mahmoud Farshidi, Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the 8th session of the General Conference. He stated at the beginning of his speech that his country prides itself on having presided over the 8th session of the General Conference. He said "we are of the conviction that Islam, as in its past great challenges, has revealed its potential and power for saving the Muslim Ummah and contributing to the full-fledged development of Islam. It is

definitely capable of safeguarding our identity against the extensive onslaughts at this juncture”.

He added that, “as the sole scientific, educational and cultural reference in the Islamic world, ISESCO has triggered great hopes and expectations among Muslims and it is of their pride and dignity. Thus, it is incumbent upon the Member States to fully support the Islamic Organization”.

Dr. Mabrouk Ali El Ghaid, Chairman of ISESCO's Executive Council and Secretary General of the Libyan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, delivered then an address wherein he said: "the draft Three-Year Action Plan for the Years 2007-2009, which is submitted to this Conference, meets the prerequisites for concerted action, reflects our aspirations, and translates our shared vision and firm determination to develop working mechanisms for the achievement of ISESCO's goals in utmost innovation, seriousness and perfection”.

Before closing the opening session, and as a token of recognition of scholars and intellectuals who have made significant contributions to the scientific, cultural and intellectual process and to joint Islamic action, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization decorated five eminent personalities, having outstanding presence in the fields of literature, science, culture and joint Islamic cooperation, representing the three geographic regions (Arab, Asian and African regions), with **ISESCO Medal of the First Class**, namely:

- **H.E. Dr. Abbas Jirari**, Advisor to His Majesty the King of Morocco, member of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, member of Arab and Islamic language and scientific academies, and chair professor in Mohammed V University;
- **H.E. Dr. Hamed Al-Ghabed**, ex-Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, ex-Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger and academic economist scholar;
- **His Eminence Sheikh Abu Bakr Muhyi Al-Din**, Chairman of the Islamic Call Association in Singapore and member of the Founding Council of the Muslim World League.
- **H.E. Dr. Mongi Bousnina**, Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization -ALECSO-; and
- **H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Sherif**, Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society.

In recognition of their sincere efforts in the service of ISESCO's objectives, the Organization honoured seven senior members of the Executive Council, representing the three geographic regions, by awarding them **ISESCO Gold Medal**. These are:

- Mr. Fawzi Abdul Zahir Khamis, representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Executive Council;
- Dr. Ibrahim bin Moubarak Aljuwair, representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Executive Council;
- Mr. Mahamat Moussa Ibrahim, representative of the Republic of Chad to the Executive Council;
- Ms. Keoulé Boundy, representative of the Republic of Mali to the Executive Council;
- Mr. Mahir Oglu Aliyev, representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Executive Council;
- Mr. Erkin Rahmatullaev, representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Executive Council; and
- Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Jharrallah, representative of the State of Kuwait to the Executive Council.

Then, ISESCO prizes in the fields of Islamic studies, literacy, and child literature, were delivered to the winners, as under:

Islamic studies:

- Dr. Taha Abderrahmane, from the Kingdom of Morocco, for his book *Su'alu Al-Akhlaq* (the Question of Ethics).

Literacy pilot experiences:

- Prof. Ishak Bin Haroun, from Malaysia.

Best literary production for children:

- Ms. Nana Aissa Touré, from the Republic of Mali.

Then, Dr. Mongi Bousnina, Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization -ALECSO-; Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Sherif, Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society; and Dr. Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director General of UNESCO, made addresses respectively on behalf of the Arab organizations, the Islamic organizations and the international organizations.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Brunson Mckinley, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, addressed the Conference, and was decorated by ISESCO's Director General with **ISESCO Gold Medal**, in recognition of his efforts in promoting cooperation between the two organizations.

During the first working session, the Conference Bureau was formed as follows:

- **The Kingdom of Morocco** : President
- Sultanate of Oman : Vice-President

- Islamic Republic of Pakistan : Vice-President
- Republic of Niger : Vice-President
- **The Islamic Republic of Iran: General Rapporteur**

The General Conference set up two specialized committees, namely:

- **Programmes Committee**, with Burkina Faso as chairman and the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam as rapporteur.
- **Administrative, Financial and Legal Affairs Committee**, with the Republic of the Sudan as chairman and the State of Qatar as rapporteur.

In the same session, the Director General of ISESCO presented his report on the Organization's activities between the 8th and 9th sessions of the General Conference. In this report, the Director General surveyed the major achievements and gains, which enhanced ISESCO's presence in international circles, as well as the efforts made both in promoting dialogue among cultures and alliance among civilizations, and in setting up the solid scientific base for comprehensive development in the Islamic countries, through supporting all aspects of educational, scientific and cultural development.

The Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Organization's Activities between the 8th and 9th General Conference Sessions, and called upon the Member States to support the Organization by settling their contributions and arrears to the budget of the Organization, with a view to enabling it to implement the largest number of programmes and activities. It praised the Director General's initiatives to hold the specialized Islamic conferences and his keenness to ensure the participation of the Organization in supporting and organizing regional and international conferences that fall within its fields of competence, in cooperation with similar organizations.

Also, the Conference appreciated the high standard and outstanding quality of the Organization's activities and programmes implemented inside and outside the Member States, particularly those related to dialogue among civilizations and cultures and to the presentation of the true image of Islam and Muslims. It welcomed the Director General's decision to open an ISESCO Regional Office in Vienna and thanked the Austrian government for the facilitations and privileges it has offered. The Conference entrusted the Executive Council with approving the draft Office Headquarters Agreement and invited the Director General to pursue his efforts in this regard.

The Conference thanked the Union of Comoros for granting a plot of land to ISESCO Delegation in Moroni, and invited the Director General to take the necessary measures to support the Delegation's activities and programmes and expand the scope of its action over the whole the region.

The Conference thanked also the international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental bodies for their cooperation with ISESCO in implementing activities and programmes of common interest, and invited the Director General to intensify cooperation, coordination and consultation with these organizations.

In their addresses during the first and second working sessions, their Excellencies the Heads of delegation presented the broad lines of the policies followed by their own governments as concerns the fields of education, science and culture. They propounded some edifying ideas that would enrich the action led by the Organization in this regard.

The Conference took note of the statements of the Heads of delegation of Member States participating in the Conference as well as of their sound orientations and important recommendations. The Conference invited ISESCO to take those remarks and recommendations into consideration in the elaboration of programmes and activities, in line with the resources available and the plans adopted.

Thereupon, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of ISESCO, and Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Sherif, Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society, signed a cooperation agreement between the two institutions for the year 2007, containing a number of programmes and activities in their fields of competence. The two parties subsequently affirmed their resolve to carry on with this cooperation and develop it for the sake of the whole Islamic world.

During the second working session, Dr. Mabrouk Ali El Ghaid, the Chairman of the Executive Council of ISESCO and Secretary General of the Libyan National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, presented a report on the Executive Council's activities between the 8th and 9th sessions of the General Conference.

Having taken note of the report of the Executive Council on the Council's activities, the General Conference commended the efforts exerted by the Chairman and honourable members of the Executive Council to provide sustained support to the Organization and to its Director General, as part of the implementation of the Three-year Action Plan 2004-2006.

Then, the Director General of ISESCO presented his reports on the programmes and activities geared to Al-Quds Al-Sharif to protect its Islamic identity against obliteration and Judaization; and on the role of ISESCO in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He highlighted the major activities contributed by ISESCO to support the said institutions in these five states which face great challenges in these fields due to the difficult conditions they undergo.

Being conscious of the shared responsibility towards the Palestinian people, and by way of asserting its support for them, the General Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Protection of the Islamic Identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif against Obliteration and Judaization, and condemned the Israeli aggressions and desecration of Islamic sanctities and the havoc wreaked on educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and throughout Palestinian territories. It also reaffirmed that Al-Quds is

the capital of the independent state of Palestine, rejected any attempt to cut down the Palestinian sovereignty over it, and stressed that all the settlement measures and practices therein are null and void in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy as well as the international conventions and covenants which consider that all the legal and administrative arrangements and measures of the Israeli settlements designed to alter the legal, demographic, architectural, historical and civilizational status of the holy city are null and void and run counter to the resolutions of the international legitimacy and international instruments.

The Conference thanked in this regard the Director General for his effective implementation of the previous resolutions concerning Al-Quds Al-Sharif as well as for his efforts and initiatives in this respect, especially those aimed to defend the city of Al-Quds and oppose the proposal of Israeli occupation authorities to register Al-Quds on the preliminary World Heritage List as an Israeli site. It invited him to pursue the implementation of the programmes and activities geared to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif in order to protect its cultural identity and civilizational landmarks. The Conference endorsed the Decision of the 27th Executive Council.

The Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Role of ISESCO in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Palestine. It condemned the ruthless Israeli aggressions against the educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine and against Palestinian towns and villages, besieging them and harassing their innocent citizens. Also, the Conference stressed the necessity to act in such a way as to halt the settlement activities, Israeli measures and practices which run counter to the international legality, and take action to ensure the prevention of these measures and the dismantlement of Israeli settlements in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In this regard, the Conference thanked the Director General for his steady efforts in supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, and invited him to intensify these efforts with a view to supporting educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Palestine, and to assign priority to them under the programmes of the Action Plan 2007-2009. It also reaffirmed the previous decisions and resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Conference in this connection.

In pursuance of the support the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization gives to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the General Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Role of ISESCO in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and invited the Director General to draw up programmes geared to Bosnia-Herzegovina and implement them within the framework of ISESCO Directorates' programmes and activities.

As part of supporting the people of Somalia in the ordeal they are going through, the General Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Role of ISESCO in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Somalia, and endorsed the Decision of the 27th Executive Council. It also reaffirmed the previous relevant decisions and

resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Conference, and thanked the Director General for the fair implementation thereof.

As part of supporting the Afghani people and assisting them in building up infrastructure in the fields of education, science and culture, the General Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Role of ISESCO in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Afghanistan, and endorsed the Decision of the 27th Executive Council. It also reaffirmed the previous relevant decisions and resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Conference.

Within the framework of supporting the Republic of Iraq and assisting it in reactivating its educational, scientific and cultural institutions, the Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Role of ISESCO in Supporting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Institutions in Iraq, and endorsed the Decision of the 27th Executive Council Session, while reaffirming the previous decisions and resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Conference in this connection.

The participants in the Conference called upon ISESCO to sustain its support for and interest in the educational programmes and activities geared to the people of the Syrian occupied Golan Heights, in order to contribute to the protection of their national identity and Arab-Islamic culture from the attempts of distortion being made by the Israeli occupation authorities against educational and cultural institutions.

Then, the Director General presented his reports on the Programme of ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations; on the Evaluation of the Organization's Action; on ISESCO's Permanent Headquarters; and on the Project for Establishing an Islamic Youth Parliament.

Seeking to further the efforts of the Islamic Organization in disseminating the culture of dialogue, coexistence and cooperation, the Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Programme of ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations. In this respect, it approved the appointment of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, H.E. Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, H.E. Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow and Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, Spouse of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as ISESCO's Ambassadors for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, and extended thanks to them for accepting this nomination. The Conference also invited the Director General to increase the number of ISESCO's Goodwill Ambassadors so as to include the main areas pertaining to Member States' priorities and ISESCO's objectives and functions, and to present suggestions in this regard to the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council and the General Conference.

Then, the Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Evaluation of the Organization's Action for the Years 2004-2006, taking into consideration the observations made by the Conference members. It praised the Director General and his assistants for the efforts made in order to develop the evaluation methods of ISESCO's action, and invited him to pursue the consolidation of internal and external evaluation mechanisms, in such a way as

to further enhance ISESCO's work. The Conference equally called upon the Member States to be more interactive with the external evaluation operations conducted by ISESCO within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan's programmes and activities. It further invited the Director General to present a report on the evaluation of the Organization's action for the years 2007-2009 to the forthcoming General Conference session.

Moreover, the General Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on the Construction of ISESCO's Permanent Headquarters, and thanked the personalities having offered donations to this end. It further thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the procedural facilitations it provided for the construction of the permanent headquarters, hailed the considerable efforts exerted by the Director General for the construction of this outstanding civilizational edifice in a short period and at a suitable financial cost, and reiterated thanks to him and to his assistants for the achievements made in this regard.

The Conference also agreed to enlarge the functions of the Financial Control Committee and to extend its composition to engineers and technicians, so that it covers supervising the management of the new headquarters and the measures taken for the sale of the old one. It subsequently gave its approval to deposit the selling price in ISESCO's Reserve Fund.

Furthermore, the Conference welcomed the Resolution of the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Sanaa – Republic of Yemen, 28-30 June 2005) concerning the establishment of the **Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, headquartered in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey**, and called upon the Director General to pursue coordination and cooperation with the Forum to support and serve educational, scientific and cultural issues of common interest. It entrusted the Executive Council with studying the project in the light of the discussions which have taken place, and with putting forward relevant proposals.

In an in-camera session, the Conference examined later the Draft Amendment to ISESCO's Charter, Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, Observer Status Regulations and ISESCO's Organizational Chart. It adopted them taking into consideration the observations of the Conference members. The Conference accredited the Executive Council members, and decided to convene the tenth session of the General Conference in July 2009, at ISESCO's Permanent Headquarters in Rabat.

Following the close of the proceedings of the Administrative, Financial and Legal Affairs Committee, the Conference adopted the Financial Report of the Director General and Closing Accounts, the Report of the Audit Company and Report of the Financial Control Committee for the years 2003-2005, in its two parts, taking into consideration the observations made by the members of the Committee. It extended thanks to all the personalities and parties that made donations in support of the Organization. Moreover, it endorsed the Financial Control Committee's recommendations concerning the management of the new headquarters and the measures taken for the sale of the old one, and gave its approval to deposit the selling price in ISESCO's Reserve Fund. In addition, the Conference thanked

the Financial Control Committee and the audit company for their efforts in preparing this report. It also hailed the Director General's efforts in collecting financial resources, rationalizing expenditure and improving action mechanisms, and invited him to continue his moves and carry on contacts with the donor parties with a view to obtaining maximum support for the Organization's activities.

Furthermore, the General Conference adopted the Report of the Director General on Member States' Contributions to the Organization's Budget and Redressing the Financial Situation of the Organization, in its two parts, taking into consideration the observations made by the members of the Committee. It invited the Director General to further coordination, consultation and contacts with the Member States with arrears, through the members of the General Conference, the Executive Council and the National Commissions, with a view to collecting these arrears and agreeing on practical mechanisms for the payment thereof, in accordance with the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Council and the General Conference in this connection. Besides, the Conference reaffirmed the previous relevant decisions and resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Conference, thanked the Member States having responded to the Resolution and Decision of the General Conference and the Executive Council concerning facilitations for the payment of arrears to the Organization, and agreed to submit a report to the 10th Session of the General Conference in this connection.

As part of sustaining the General Directorate's efforts in modernizing the Organization and renewing its regulations to be in line with the progress it witnesses, the Conference endorsed the proposed amendments to ISESCO's Charter, Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, Observer Status Regulations and ISESCO's Organizational Chart. Moreover, it invited the Director General to enforce these rules in accordance with the supreme interests of the Organization, and reaffirmed the necessity to meet the functional and professional specifications stated in ISESCO's Organizational Chart and to take the necessary administrative and financial measures in this connection. It also thanked the Director General and his assistants for preparing this document.

After the end of the proceedings of the Programmes Committee, and in anticipation of the future and in a bid to provide the Organization with developed and efficient means to achieve its objectives, the Conference adopted the Draft Three-Year Action Plan and Budget for the Years 2007-2009. It approved its budget standing at **US\$ 41.100.453** to finance the plan's implementation, taking into consideration the observations and proposals of the Executive Council and the General Conference as well as the Member States' priorities and needs at the implementation. It also thanked the Executive Council for its efforts and follow-up, as well as for the committees it has set up to lay down the broad lines of the draft plan and budget for the years 2007-2009.

The Conference called upon the Member States to pay their full contributions under this Plan, and invited the Director General to carry on his efforts to procure off-budget financial resources, in order to implement the largest possible part of the 2007-2009 Action Plan. It praised the approach followed by the General Directorate, resting on an extensive interdisciplinary strategic vision marked by complementarity, cohesion and innovation. The Conference thanked the Director General and his assistants for their distinguished contribution to the preparation of the draft Action Plan and budget of the years 2007-2009.

The General Conference debated the subjects put on its agenda in a convivial atmosphere charged with joint consensus and a will to thoroughly explore these issues, based on a great sense of responsibility.