

In the lapsed years of the Medium-Term Action Plan 2010-2018, the resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the General Conference and Executive Council, along with the strategies and instruments of reference adopted by the specialized ministerial conferences in the spheres of culture, have all shown that the success of national cultural policies of Member States is contingent upon success in other areas that overlap with and complement them.

The various studies, sector-focused field research, reports and statistics compiled by specialized regional and international organizations have all come to the conclusion that many of the problems endured in today's world, including in ISESCO Member States, have a clear cultural dimension. There is an urgent need to adopt a forward-looking approach to cultural priorities in the Members States if they are to solve these problems, including, most importantly, extremism, violence, sectarianism and fanaticism. The conclusions of those reports, studies and research have shown that among the factors behind the prevalence of these phenomena is the lack of participation in cultural life, despite the praiseworthy efforts made by Member States in this regard.

It is therefore of the essence to engage reforms in the relevant sectors, as part of an innovative integrated approach to promoting participation in public affairs in ways that favor the comprehensive development that Member States are committed to in the form of the objectives, programmes and development plans they have approved and fixed for themselves. These include, inter alia, the **Universal Declaration on Cultural Rights (UNESCO 1998)**, the **Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda** issued by the **United Nations**, the **Ten-Year Programme of Action of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (2006-2015)**, the **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (UNESCO 2005)**, as well as other reference documents ratified within the framework of joint Islamic action. These include the **Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity(2004)**, the **Action Plan to Renew Cultural Policies in the Member States and Adapt them to International Changes (2007)**, the **document on the Cultural Roles of Civil Society in the Promotion of Dialogue and Peace (2011)**, and the **Islamic Declaration on Cultural Rights (2014)**.

To incorporate the philosophy of those reference documents and declarations into the Member States' national plans, it is crucially important to develop cultural policies that take into consideration the local, national, regional and international dimensions of these policies in terms of a continuous horizontal and vertical review and assessment of results, be it before, during or after their accomplishment, to gauge their efficacy.

Among the priorities to be incorporated into the public policies of Member States is the promotion of cultural diversity, the adoption of good governance, of a participatory cross-cutting approach to heritage, and of a policy based on cultural mediation in the management of local and cultural affairs. Other priorities involve the expansion of the scope of cultural rights to promote participation in public cultural life, the creation of job opportunities, and the adoption of dialogue as an indispensable mechanism of conflict resolution.

In view of the paramount importance of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and considering the religious, historical and civilizational status it holds at the international level, and in light of the persistent criminal acts perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities to obliterate the civilizational identity of Al Quds, judaize its cultural landmarks and obliterate its historical monuments, ISESCO will double up its efforts through the Department of Al-Quds Al-Sharif at the Culture Directorate to face up to such plots both on the field and internationally, providing financial and technical support, mobilizing efforts and activating procedural measures at international forums. It will also endeavor to improve the services rendered to educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all Palestine, as well as focus on supporting income-generating projects and rehabilitation programmes favoring the employment of the youth and women, and encourage civil society institutions that have a development-gear thrust. Also within this line of action, ISESCO will dedicate utmost attention to categories with special needs, whether they were talented, disabled persons or children in remote areas isolated as a result of the discriminatory dividing wall.

To achieve this, ISESCO identified the following two sector-based priorities: **“Promotion of cultural diversity, reinforcement of cultural rights and intercultural dialogue, and preservation of heritage within the cultural policies of Member States”**, and **“Strengthening cultural roles of the civil society’s different social classes towards the achievement of sustainable development in the Islamic world.**

The priorities identified for the next three years (2016-2018) ensure the continuity of and complementarity with those of the previous Action Plan (2013-2015) in translating into reality the strategic objectives of the Medium-Term Action Plan 2010-2018.

To this end, three priority projects were selected for implementation during the period 2016-2018. These are:

- 1. Project on protection of civilizational heritage, cultural plurality and coexistence within and outside the Islamic world through consolidation of the mechanisms of cultural exchange and cultural mediation and respect for cultural diversity.**
- 2. Project on supporting specialized institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.**
- 3. Project on transcribing the languages of Muslim peoples in the Quranic Script (QS).**

In implementing these projects, ISESCO will adopt as its referential framework the directives of the **General Conference and Executive Council, the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, the Islamic Conference of Ministers in Charge of Childhood, and such specialized bodies in charge of implementation as the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the Supreme Council for Education and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World, the Supreme Consultative Council for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together, the Islamic World Heritage Committee (IWHC), and ISESCO Archaeology Experts Committee on Israeli Excavations in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.** It will also rely on the continuous support of the national commissions and the competent parties in Member States and continue its coordination with the regional and international partners on all matters of relevance.

Similarly, ISESCO will continue to extend its support to Member States to help them honor the various commitments they undertook and meet the conditions of comprehensive development through experience sharing and the cultural advice extended to Member States to achieve common objectives through an array of programmes, sessions and meetings. It equally involves support programmes that target cultural and media institutions inside and outside the Islamic world, or the reports, studies and strategies made available for different stakeholders of cultural affairs in Member States to contribute to building a common and fully integrated cultural base federating all Member States.

1. Project on protection of civilizational heritage, cultural plurality and coexistence within and outside the Islamic world through consolidation of the mechanisms of cultural exchange and cultural mediation and respect for cultural diversity

General framework:

Building on the outcomes of specialized Islamic ministerial conferences held by ISESCO, particularly those of culture ministers, and the documents, orientations and resolutions issued by these conferences and which shape the overall policies of Member States, and based on the Organization's experience acquired in the implementation of its successive action plans carried out in light of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, and on the outcomes of the respective meetings of the Consultative Council in Charge of the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the Islamic World Heritage Committee (IWHC), ISESCO Archaeology Experts Committee on Israeli Excavations in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the Supreme Consultative Council for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together, and recalling the various conferences and symposia related to cultural policies and cultural diversity that the Organization either held or participated in, while being convinced of the need to formulate cultural policies that guide cultural action in the Islamic world and facilitate its intervention in international cultural debates as a regional block with its weight and influence, ISESCO will implement activities and programmes in its fields of competence and through its specialized organs such as the IWHC and ISESCO Archaeology Experts Committee on Israeli Excavations in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the Programme of Islamic Culture Capitals, as well as through the implementation of the orientations of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World concerning the conferences of culture ministers and the Consultative Council in Charge of the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, the invigoration of the Supreme Consultative Council for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together, promotion of cultural policies, cultural tourism, diversification of cultural industries, traditional and modern alike, along with digital contents, the knowledge-based economy and cultural enterprises, and protection of intellectual property.

Under the Action Plan 2016-2018, ISESCO will also seek to consolidate its programmes pertaining to dialogue between followers of religions, cultures and civilizations, in line with its civilizational vision, and in the drive to promote human rights and respect for otherness, counter stereotypes and Islamophobia, and promote a culture of peace and student exchange programmes between Western universities and their counterparts in the Islamic world. ISESCO will also continue its endeavors within the Strategy of Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic World through four focus areas: the training of imams, religious counselors, and mediation-oriented religious scholars, monitoring the cultural and educational needs of Muslims outside the Islamic world, renewing the Islamic discourse outside the Islamic world in line with Islam's middle stance, and promoting the integration of Muslim youth living outside the Islamic world in their communities.

Objectives:

- To preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the Islamic World, and assist Member States with its protection, qualify the sector's workers in heritage preservation and protection, and train cultural role-players in the management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and its various products.
- To encourage studies and research on tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Member States.
- To promote and diversify tangible and intangible cultural heritage and harness it for the promotion of cultural and ecological tourism, while linking it to sustainable development in Member States.
- To develop cultural and traditional industries, protect intellectual property and expand cultural and ecological tourism to achieve sustainable development in such vital cultural fields.
- To entrench cultural plurality and cultural and doctrinal diversity, and strengthen programmes on cultural exchange between the peoples of Member States and peoples outside the Islamic world.
- To promote moderation, dialogue, tolerance and fraternity, reject intolerance and sectarian hatred, and highlight aspects of cultural, intellectual and civilizational unity of the Islamic world.
- To take advantage of the Muslim human capital based outside the Islamic world enabling it to play its role for the benefit of the Muslim world and Muslim causes, and highlight its intellectual products and scientific innovations as models of Muslim creative minds.
- To help young Muslims outside the Islamic world to integrate into their communities.
- To improve the capacities of imams and religious counselors outside the Islamic world, empower them with communication skills and instill in them a legal and managerial culture, based on the values of middle stance and moderation.
- To establish funding sources and networks to support Islamic cultural action projects in the Islamic world and beyond.
- To renew the moderate Islamic discourse that is open to other cultures and civilizations, while ensuring respect for religions and human rights values.

Areas of intervention:

- Protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage inside and outside the Islamic world.
- Islamic culture capitals programme, promotion of cultural exchange and highlighting cultural diversity in institutions of joint Islamic cultural action.
- Developing cultural and traditional industries, protecting intellectual property and expanding cultural and ecological tourism to achieve sustainable development.

- Encouraging rapprochement between Islamic madhahib and promoting moderation and middle stance through mechanisms of dialogue and fraternity.
- Developing programmes of dialogue among cultures and civilizations and the programme of cultural action for Muslims outside the Islamic world.

Partners:

- Government institutions, NGOs and civil society institutions concerned with heritage-related legislation, training and scientific research in the areas of cultural heritage and movable cultural property.
- Islamic and international organizations and bodies pursuing similar goals.
- The Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) and educational institutions operating in the Islamic world.
- Cultural centers and Islamic associations operating outside the Islamic world.

Total budget:

US\$ 2,500,000.00

Area of intervention 1: protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage inside and outside the Islamic world.

In this area, ISESCO will endeavor to step up its efforts in the protection of endangered cultural heritage in Member States. It will continue to work towards boosting the action of the IWHC and ISESCO Archeology Experts Committee on Israeli Excavations in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in line with the roadmap it drew up to improve methods of protecting this heritage, provide support to Member States, and endeavor to register their heritage sites and landmarks on the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL) and on ISESCO's Islamic World Heritage List (IWHL).

Additionally, ISESCO will give special attention to boosting the intervention of youth, local communities and civil society institutions in the management of heritage. It will also address the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in cultural property through field and training activities intended to sensitize the various stakeholders to the importance of combating this phenomenon and urge them to abide by relevant laws and legislation. As part of the tasks assigned to it, the IWHC will continue to work towards making the elements of Islamic cultural heritage and its cultural, historical and religious landmarks a point of convergence of all educational, scientific and cultural policies. It will strive to ensure its effective and efficient management in ways that introduce the concepts and tools necessary to translate its economic potentialities into a reality, and transform all its elements, tangible and intangible, into educational and instructional materials that ultimately contribute to achieving sustainable development.

The Organization will pursue the implementation of a range of activities aimed at popularizing certain Islamic intellectual heritage treasures that are of particular academic and historical value, showcase them and evaluate them through scientific

studies and the organization of scientific symposia aimed at outlining the means and ways to benefit from the Islamic intellectual heritage. Additionally, the Organization will render some major books of Islamic intellectual heritage in a simpler form and highlight their contribution to human heritage. It will extend its support and technical advice to the relevant authorities in Member States to help them adopt digital conversion programmes of some examples of Islamic intellectual heritage and replicate them on other multimedia to ensure their wider dissemination. ISESCO will also allocate prizes to the best publishers of Islamic intellectual heritage.

The Organization will celebrate renowned icons, dead and alive, by selecting distinguished figures who contributed significantly to the thriving of the Islamic civilization, whether in scientific, intellectual or cultural fields. This initiative has been continuously implemented since the first years of ISESCO's inception.

Expected outcome: protecting the Islamic world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, promoting cultural diversity, entrenching cultural rights and consolidating intercultural dialogue and cultural action outside the Islamic world

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting the IWHC's action. • Boosting the action of ISECO Archaeology Experts Committee on Israeli Excavations in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. • Continuing registering natural and heritage sites on the WHL and the IWHL. • Encouraging Member States to take further interest in, popularize and document intangible heritage. • Reviving the Islamic heritage in the individual and collective memory of Muslim peoples and celebrate its icons. • Taking interest in the restoration, preservation and authentication of Islamic manuscripts and museum pieces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding 3 meetings of the IWHC. • Registration of 30 archaeological sites on the IWHL. • Conducting 3 field statistical studies (covering the 3 geographical regions) on tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the Islamic world. • Providing legal, scientific and technical advice to Member States on the protection of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage and on the updating of their national legislation in this regard (6 countries). • Holding 9 international symposia celebrating the icons of Islamic thought and heritage in the celebrated Islamic culture capitals. • Holding 3 training sessions on the protection of the tangible and intangible heritage and its documentation and the participatory management of heritage. • Holding 3 regional meetings of experts on conventional and virtual museums. • Establishing the forum of safe museums outside the countries where cultural heritage is being violated. • Establishing ISESCO forum of historic cities and holding its annual meeting. • Holding 3 three training sessions on Arab and Islamic manuscript restoration and preservation. • Supporting the authentication and publishing of rare and authenticated manuscripts of Islamic heritage (2 manuscripts per year) • Holding an international conference on endangered heritage in the Islamic world.

Area of intervention 2: Islamic culture capitals programme, promotion of cultural exchange and highlighting cultural diversity in institutions of joint Islamic cultural action

As part of the follow up to the implementation of ISESCO Programme of Islamic Culture Capitals, as adopted in the list of capitals approved by the 4th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Algeria, December 2004) and the 6th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Baku, October 2009), ISESCO will focus its action in this connection on efficient concepts in the management of cultural affairs, namely cultural exchange and cultural mediation, the aim being to highlight the various aspects of cultural diversity in the capitals of Islamic culture to be celebrated over the period 2016-2018. This programme will be further consolidated through wider networking between the various capitals located in the regions covered by the Organization’s action, and through encouragement of cultural diplomacy as a means for promoting the causes of Islam and Muslims.

In the same vein, ISESCO will continue to coordinate with Member States in hosting the sessions of the Islamic conference of culture ministers, in the preparation of joint cultural programmes aimed at showcasing cultural diversity and respect for cultural specificities, promoting the cultural unity of Muslims and contributing to the civilizational edification of the Islamic world.

The Islamic conferences of culture ministers, along with the meetings of the Consultative Council in Charge of the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World will play a role in developing a new vision of cultural life in Member States, introducing qualitative approaches and searching for sound cultural policy practices in the reference documents prepared by ISESCO and approved by these bodies.

Expected outcome: promotion of cultural exchange under the Programme of Islamic Culture Capitals, highlighting cultural diversity in institutions of joint Islamic cultural action and ensuring respect for diversity and unity

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting joint Islamic cultural action. • Developing an integrated vision of culture in Member States. • Creating new cultural vocations. • Promoting cultural plurality, Islamic cultural exchange through a set of cultural and civilizational projects. • Conducting specialized studies and research on issues of Islamic culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding the 10th and 11th Islamic sessions of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers. • Holding 3 meetings of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World. • Preparation of 3 studies on the cultural indicators, policies and activity in Member States (1 study per geographical region). • Holding 3 training sessions on developing cultural action and cultural institutions for the benefit of cultural workers. • Holding 3 seminars for youth and women on dialogue, cultural diversity, cultural rights and ensuring access to culture for youth and women.

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activating the Islamic Culture Capitals Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing a study on indicators of cultural rights and cultural diversity in Member States. • Holding 3 training sessions for cultural workers on entrenching cultural plurality, respect for otherness and putting mechanisms of dialogue into effect. • Celebration of 9 capitals of Islamic culture (3 capitals per year) as adopted in the list approved by the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers. • Dedication of a number of national, regional and international activities in the celebrated capitals and beyond to the promotion of cultural exchange among those capitals. • Devoting 12 awards from among ISESCO prizes to outstanding creative works of students, craftspeople, researchers, artists and intellectuals in the celebrated capitals. • Holding ISESCO forum on dialogue of cultures / or civilizations (annual event).

Area of intervention 3: developing cultural and traditional industries, protecting intellectual property and expanding cultural and ecological tourism to achieve sustainable development

ISESCO will endeavor to increase interest in knowledge economy and develop investment in cultural action by supporting cultural, creative and artistic industries which will be harnessed for curbing poverty and unemployment rates through greater attention to traditional and cultural industries, creation of new cultural vocations that meet the requirements of development and contribute to the creation of job opportunities. In this context, ISESCO will work hard on the training of cultural cadres and workers, holders of traditional knowledge and cultural crafts to enable them to integrate this field in a highly professional way. Cultural and creative industries and crafts will be supported through greater legal protection for their products within the framework of intellectual property protection.

ISESCO will equally endeavor to place this action in the context of boosting cultural and ecological tourism and promoting investment in these vital sectors, and will mobilize government officials in charge of the promotion and protection of cultural products. It will also focus its attention on the democratization of culture to reduce ignorance and guarantee knowledge for all, in such a way as to enhance access to recreational and cultural activities.

Expected outcome: developing the skills of craftspeople to integrate traditional and new cultural industries and training human resources in cultural and ecological tourism

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building up the professional and technical capacities of cultural role-players, of holders of traditional knowledge and of workers in relevant government bodies in charge of promoting and protecting cultural and creative industries (focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation in a knowledge-based economy). • Integrating the new services into cultural institutions. • Promoting intellectual property conservation. • Developing cultural and ecological tourism, diversify its sources and align it with investment optimization and sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing a guide to traditional and new trades, crafts and cultural industries (with appendix on cultural services). • Holding 6 national and regional workshops for the benefit of workers in these departments to train them in intellectual property protection mechanisms. • Organizing 6 national and regional workshops on the production and dissemination of cultural works industries. • Holding 3 seminars to train rehabilitate manager of cultural institutions. • Holding 3 regional workshops on ways to optimize investment in cultural and ecological tourism. • Holding 3 regional meetings of experts on cultural and ecological tourism and sustainable development.

Area of intervention 4: encouraging rapprochement between Islamic madhahib and promoting moderation and middle stance through mechanisms of dialogue and fraternity

In implementation of the Strategy for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together, which calls for making rapprochement a pan-Islamic goal that all Islamic countries and societies should strive to achieve, and in line with the guidelines set by the Supreme Consultative Council for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together, ISESCO will improve the guidebook on addressing the negative mutual perceptions held by Islamic schools of thought on each other, and endeavor to put its contents to use, making it more accommodating of the concepts of cultural diversity, takaful and Islamic solidarity. The guidebook will highlight the aspects of the intellectual and civilizational unity of the Muslim Ummah, and lay the foundations for a dialogue model that can be emulated in the management of sectarian discord through rational and peaceful methods that are mindful of the Ummah’s cohesion away from intolerance and extremism.

Expected outcome: highlighting aspects of Islamic unity and consolidating conceptions of promoting rapprochement between Islamic madhahib based on middle stance, moderation and tolerance

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighting the cultural aspects of Islamic cultural unity through practical programmes. • Promoting middle stance and moderation within the framework of tolerance, fraternity, coexistence and respect for otherness. • Activating the Strategy for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together within and outside the Islamic world through a forward-looking approach and by outlining the way ahead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting 3 studies on Islamic unity. • Holding of 3 meetings of the Supreme Consultative Council for Bringing Islamic Madhahib Closer Together. • Holding 3 workshops on the rapprochement of Madhahib and countering mutual negative misconceptions. • Establishing a forum of the centers for moderation and rapprochement in the Islamic world • Publishing 2 books under the Kutub al-Taqreeb Series about the caliphs Abu Bakr and Othman, may Allah be pleased with them. • Publishing the book Ahl Al-Sunnah Du'atu al-Taqreeb. • Continuing the publication of the annual magazine Afaq al-Taqreeb (Rapprochement Prospects) by the publication of 3 issues ahead of turning it into a quarterly. • Inclusion of the guidebook on countering misconceptions about Islamic Madhahib in school curricula, translating it into French and English and ensure that it is explained to and disseminated among Muslim communities outside the Islamic world. • Establishing ISESCO programme for rapprochement between Islamic Madhahib. • Establishing ISESCO chair for encouraging rapprochement between Madhahib and middle stance.

Area of intervention 5: dialogue among cultures and civilizations and cultural action for Muslims beyond the Islamic world

In the light of the outcomes of specialized Islamic ministerial conferences, particularly the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, and their documents, guidelines and resolutions which lay out the general policies of Member States, mainly the **Initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for Dialogue among Followers of Religions and Cultures** and its executive plan, as approved respectively by the 7th and 8th sessions of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, and in view of the achievements made by ISESCO through the implementation of various action plans and its rich experience in dialogue and cultural mediation, the Organization will endeavor to promote dialogue and a culture of human rights in Member States, based on a holistic culture-oriented approach focused on harnessing local cultures for fostering human rights and accordingly promoting coexistence and preserving cultural diversity.

Given the role of cultural mediation as a new mechanism for building a culture of peace and dialogue, ISESCO will also support the international efforts dedicated to intercultural dialogue and capacity building in the field of cultural diversity and cultural rights.

Inspired by the philosophy of the Strategy of Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic World, and building on the outcomes of the meetings of the Supreme Council for Education and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World, and the regular meetings of the heads of Islamic cultural centers and associations in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and recalling the various conferences and seminars on the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the alliance of civilizations, and in a drive to formulate an action plan for the promotion of cultural mediation in the Islamic world, which was presented to the 9th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers as a new mechanism for strengthening international efforts of intercultural dialogue, ISESCO, as a think-tank of the Islamic world, will direct the efforts to be expended under the Three-Year Action Plan for 2016-2018, towards promoting dialogue among the followers of religions and cultures, in line with this civilizational vision and as part of the drive to promote cultural and civilizational mediation through dialogue, human rights and respect for otherness. ISESCO will also strive to redress misconceptions and stereotypes, combat Islamophobia, and promote the culture of peace and student exchange programmes among Western universities and their counterparts in the Islamic world. Additionally, ISESCO will guide actions undertaken under the Strategy of Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic world towards four key areas: training of imams and religious guidance officials, scholars and mediators, mapping the cultural and educational needs of Muslims outside the Islamic world, renewing the Islamic discourse outside the Islamic world as to be in line with Islam’s middle stance, and integrating Muslim youth outside Islamic world into society.

Expected outcome: strengthening international efforts in intercultural dialogue, promoting a culture of dialogue, peace, coexistence and human rights, and ensuring follow-up to the implementation of the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic world

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing programmes and build capacities in cultural dialogue within a human rights context at the international, regional, national and local levels. • Developing the culture of human rights from an Islamic civilizational perspective. • Boosting capacities in the field of cultural rights and cultural diversity to promote intercultural dialogue. • Strengthening cooperation with regional and international bodies to counter the demonization of Islam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a critical study on dialogue among cultures and civilizations outside the Islamic world and on strengthening international efforts in this regard. • Holding 3 workshops on the cultural approach to human rights from an Islamic perspective. • Holding 3 symposia in cooperation with Western political and university institutions to introduce Islam and improve the integration of young Muslims and Muslim women into society. • Extending support to Islamic cultural centers and associations to implement the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic World (5 centers per year).

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing partnership and cooperation with Western constitutional and academic institutions and with civil society in order to project the true civilizational image of Islam and Muslims. • Boosting the role of Islamic cultural action outside the Islamic world to promote cultural and civilizational dialogue. • Establishing ISESCO chairs for cultural and civilizational dialogue outside the Islamic world. • Providing sociological, legal and statistical field studies, along with educational tangibles and didactic aids proper to cultural and civilizational dialogue. • Boosting partnership to impulse regional and international initiatives for dialogue between the followers of religions and cultures. • Awarding prizes and grant incentives in the field of dialogue among cultures and civilizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening 3 meetings of Islamic cultural centers and associations outside the Islamic world. • Holding 3 meetings of the Supreme Council for Education and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World. • Establishing 3 chairs for cultural and civilizational dialogue in one university respectively in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. • Organizing 3 training sessions on mechanisms of dialogue and cultural and civilizational mediation for the benefit of the heads and staff of Islamic cultural centers and associations outside the Islamic world. • Review, translation into French and English, printing and distribution of the guidebook for imams and religious counselors. • Holding 3 training sessions for imams and religious counselors from outside the Islamic world. • Awarding 3 prizes to imams with outstanding contributions to dialogue, middle stance and moderation. • Translating into the Organization's working languages of 3 books by Western intellectuals on Islam's heritage. • Establishing a forum of observatories on the demonization of Islam.

2. Project on supporting specialized institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif

General framework:

Since its creation, ISESCO has dedicated particular attention to Al-Quds Al-Sharif and endeavored to support its educational, scientific and cultural institutions, extend technical assistance to their management and staff, and improve their working tools and performance, the aim being to enable them to accomplish their mission despite the challenges and arbitrary persecution of the Israeli occupation authorities who are striving to paralyze these institutions and in some cases shut them down. Under previous action plans, this support had focused on holding seminars and dispensing sessions for the benefit of specialized institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, providing material assistance to institutions catering for categories with special needs and those involved in the restoration and maintenance of religious monuments, encouraging civil society initiatives aimed at casting light on the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine in general, and funding the participation of youth leaders from Al-Quds Al-Sharif in relevant international forums and gatherings.

Within the framework of this project, and in continuance of the support extended over these past years, ISESCO will reinforce its cooperation and partnership with specialized institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, acting in coordination with official authorities in the State of Palestine. In so doing, the Organization aims to help counter the Israeli obliteration and Judaization plots against these institutions and address the immediate repercussions of the security and military persecution on the performance of these institutions, their patrons, employees, managers and beneficiaries. Another goal is to identify innovative solutions to the challenges arising from these restrictions, particularly through technology applications, whether in education, remote subscriptions or virtual vocational training, or the creation of dedicated websites to affirm the true historical and geographical facts of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as well as other aspects of technology use. The Organization is determined to enhance cooperation with relevant and interested regional organizations and international bodies to mobilize joint efforts in the defence of the cause of Al-Quds, its heritage and archaeological landmarks and cultural identity. In this regard, conferences, seminars and coordination meetings will be held to unify positions, coordinate efforts and raise awareness among relevant parties.

The Directorate will ensure coordination with other directorates and centers within the Organization to formulate and implement an integrated system of programmes and activities covering the spectrum of ISESCO's fields of competence, and to respond to the pressing needs and priorities expressed by targeted institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif through the official channels of the State of Palestine.

Objectives:

- To preserve the intangible and tangible cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, rehabilitate human resources and train field leaderships in order to safeguard and tend to this heritage.

- To encourage cultural industries, traditional knowledge and tourism-gearred products which carry a local development mark.
- To improve the use of cultural services and modern technological means to enhance the performance of educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- To support civil society institutions and youth and women's leaderships in the preservation of the cultural identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the defense of its causes locally, regionally and internationally.

Areas of intervention:

- Protecting the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and countering all attempts to obliterate, distort and Judaize the cultural identity of the Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- Coaching youth and women's leaderships and training staff and community workers specializing in education, sciences, culture and communication.
- Publishing books, authenticating manuscripts, preparing studies and research reports, and creating websites and communication networks to serve the cultural causes of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Partners:

- Governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions.
- Charities, voluntary and donor institutions and development agencies.
- Universities, research centers and specialized scientific networks.

Total budget:

US\$ 1,250,000

Area of intervention 1: protecting the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and countering all attempts to obliterate, distort and Judaize the cultural identity of the Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Under this area of intervention, ISESCO will dedicate a range of programmes and activities geared for the benefit of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and aiming to protect its tangible and intangible heritage and confront the Israeli occupation authorities' attempts to obliterate, distort and Judaize the identity of this city. This will involve providing financial and technical support to the restoration of monuments, the documenting of oral heritage and affirmation of the historical identity of the city. In this respect, ISESCO will continue to organize meetings of the archaeologists in charge of monitoring Israeli excavations in Al Quds and will reinforce the membership of the Committee with legal experts to expose the legal violations committed in this regard and issue periodic reports on the subject. The Islamic World Heritage Committee will continue to implement the follow-up decisions issued on Al-Quds Al-Sharif and recording Al-Quds Al-Sharif sites on the list of the Islamic world Heritage and coordinate with the UNESCO World

Heritage Committee to confirm the legitimacy and credibility of the decisions taken by this Committee on the tangible and intangible heritage of Al Quds. The implementation efforts of the programmes and activities scheduled under this aspect will cover every year and within the limits of the resources available, the various components of this heritage as well as its symbols and manifestations while putting to use appropriate executive mechanisms, adjusting priorities, examining the latest developments and responding to emergencies during planning and implementation.

Expected outcome: promotion of heritage affairs in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and developing mechanisms to protect and preserve this heritage

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Israeli excavations aiming to obliterate and Judaize the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif Continuing the registration of tangible and intangible heritage sites and natural in Al-Quds Al-Sharif on the heritage list of the IWHL and the World Heritage List. Showcasing cultural and historical symbols and ancient academic institutions of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, celebrating their prominent figures and highlighting their productions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding (3) meetings of the ISESCO archeological commission in charge of monitoring and documenting excavations. Registering (10) sites on the Islamic world heritage list and advocating the registration of heritage sites on the World Heritage List. Providing tangible support and technical assistance to specialized heritage institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif (at the rate of three institutions per year). Holding six (6) regional and international symposia about the cultural history of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its symbols and institutions.

Area of intervention 2: coaching youth and women's leaderships and training staff and community workers specializing in education, sciences, culture and communication

The part played by youth and women's leaderships, whether through individual or collective initiatives in the cultural field, has become pivotal in view of the youth's predisposition to interact with cultural developments. Considering the sheer volume of incoming cultural contents via satellite stations, websites and social networks, in addition to the values, concepts and visions imparted in educational institutions at all levels and that reflect directly on the cultural identity of these young people, especially Palestinians and residents of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and given the Israeli judaization and obliteration plots that specifically target their culture, heritage and history, ISESCO has deemed it important, within this area, to boost the role of youth in steering cultural affairs in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine in general, and to harness, hone and develop their skills and field abilities. The aim is to enhance the performance of educational, scientific, cultural and communication institutions through unremitting commitment to their common mission which is to preserve the cultural identity of people and land in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and in Palestine.

In this context, the Organization will sponsor the organization of training sessions and seminars and the preparation of guidebooks. It will also promote the development of school curricula that serve the interests of the Ummah’s sacred mission and most important cause of the Islamic world.

Expected outcome: enhancing the role of community and civil society institutions in the promotion of the cultural causes in Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacities and field skills of youth and women leaderships and civil society institutions staff in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. • Linking educational policies and plans and communication programmes with serving cultural affairs in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing (9) training sessions and seminars for the benefit of youth and women leaderships and staff of civil society institutions to train them on using integrated mechanisms as they serve cultural interests in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. • Preparing a standardized guidebook for civil society leaderships on serving cultural the cultural causes in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. • Introducing issues pertaining to Al-Quds Al-Sharif among the axes and on the agendas of international, Arab and Islamic forums and conferences. • Holding a joint meeting of education, media, communication and culture experts to develop a common and integrated vision for the protection of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

Area of intervention 3: publishing books and manuscripts, preparing studies and research reports, and creating websites and communication networks to serve cultural interests in Al-Quds Al-Sharif

This area of intervention will focus on the documenting component of cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. More attention will be paid to the cultural wealth of this holy city, particularly manuscripts, maps, coins, etc., by compiling specialized indexes and bibliographies, and encouraging researchers and scholars to focus their research on the cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. ISESCO will also support the creation of websites and the production of documentaries presenting scientific articles, and the creation of cultural interactive platforms aimed at showcasing the true cultural identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and exposing the unfair practices of Israeli occupation authorities and their continuous assault on the symbols and components of the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. The Organization will endeavor to prepare tourist guidebooks and handy maps that present the true face of the Holy City. It will also ensure the translation of the most important of these reference tangibles into other languages, including Hebrew to counter the publications and documents produced in this language, and to provide alternative information to the reader, both domestically and internationally.

Expected outcome: providing written, audio and visual tangibles about Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing reference tangible about the tangible and intangible heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. • Harnessing cyberspace in publicizing the cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing (3) studies, guidebooks and reports on threats besieging cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and means and ways of safeguarding this heritage. • Supporting (3) academic and research institutions working in the field of cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. • Supporting the establishment of a website to publicize the cultural monuments and historical and religious sites and institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its symbols. • Holding an international symposium on cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif between the past, present and future.

3. Project on transcribing the languages of Muslim peoples in the Quranic Script (QS)

1. *Project of the Quranic Script as a tool of sustainable development and the embodiment of cultural diversity within unity*

General framework:

This project is founded on an evaluation report that covered almost a quarter of a century and examined more than one hundred activities carried out by ISESCO in collaboration with several institutions and in a number of different areas related to the Quranic Script (QS). This project draws on the outcomes of the assessment of these activities and the reports of participating experts, trainers and beneficiaries, as well as on a review of the needs formulated by Member States and other relevant institutions. The success and recognition achieved by ISESCO under the programme of transcribing Muslim peoples' languages in QS over a quarter of a century has served as an impetus and an incentive in the preparation of this project, especially since the efforts exerted by ISESCO and its partners in this area have encouraged a number of countries to create educational centers and university chairs dedicated to the QS. These centers have made remarkable progress in disseminating the QS, drawing to the maximum on their limited human and tangible resources. All of this dictates that efforts be redoubled to consecrate these endeavors, and further expand QS use in the next phase. On the whole, the localization of QS use in educational, scientific, cultural and media institutions in the countries concerned is a key strategic target from which arise a number of secondary objectives this project seeks to achieve through focus areas that are organized according to performance indicators and measures.

Objectives:

- To develop existing QS centers and open new centers in targeted countries, and develop and expand their training programmes.
- To develop and diversify mechanisms of extending the scope of QS use to include cultural and educational fields.
- To promote scientific and linguistic research and harness its results in the drive to firmly establish the QS project in these targeted countries.
- To promote QS-based literacy within the framework of Education for All.
- To include the teaching of local languages using QS in elementary education, and link QS to the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Arabic language.
- To develop educational structures and rehabilitate human resources to help advance the QS project.
- To prepare educational tangibles and disseminate the Islamic culture using the Standardized Quranic Script (SQS).
- To harness ICTs to QS dissemination and development.
- To encourage local initiatives.

- To reinforce ties with educational institutions at all levels and with relevant local authorities as primary channels through which these activities can be implemented and that serve as a medium of cooperation with the beneficiaries of these activities.

Area of intervention:

- Preparation of QS educational tangibles for use in adult and general education.
- Supporting translation and cultural and journalistic publishing.
- Localization of technical expertise to establish QS chairs at universities and educational institutions.
- QS Computerization.

Partners:

- Islamic Development Bank.
- Qatar Charity.
- Universities, academies and advanced research institutes.
- Ministries of education, higher education & scientific research, culture, information, and Awqaf and Islamic affairs.
- Civil society organizations.

Total budget:

US\$ 1,303,170.00

Area of intervention 1: preparation of QS educational tangibles for use in adult and general education

Under this area, the aim is to link QS to the teaching of the Quran and the Arabic language in the targeted countries. From an educational viewpoint, the transcription of local languages in QS is an important gateway to learning Arabic for young and old alike. If this process is associated with reading the Quran, it becomes an important spiritual gateway to master the recitation of the Quran and its phonics and letter articulation. This entails the development of literacy books for each of the target languages, along with educational tools that include guidebooks for teachers, booklets and training manuals, and reading books for the benefit of students.

Expected outcome: localizing QS and reinforcing its presence and use in general education and literacy institutions, linking it to Arabic writing and reading and to Quran recitation, and harnessing it for social development

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing, publish and distribute the curricula, textbooks and manuals necessary for teaching national languages transcribed in QS in general education and in literacy-oriented actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing finalized books. • Preparing 15 educational books of about 70 pages in 15 languages: Yoruba, Susu, Songhai, Mandango, Kanuri, Tamasheq, Tebu, Furawi, Somali, Afar, Swahili, Zaghawa, Nubian, Comorian, and Luganda.

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support for educational institutions and encourage them to develop teaching programmes of local languages transcribed in QS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing, publishing and distributing 20 educational guide of a maximum of 25 pages (1 guide per language) to be issued simultaneously with the textbooks. • Preparing, publishing and distributing 20 exercise booklets of a maximum of 25 pages (1 booklet per language) to be issued simultaneously with textbooks. • Preparing, publishing and distributing 20 reading booklets of a maximum of 25 pages (1 booklet per language) to be issued simultaneously with textbooks. • Holding 12 national workshops to train trainers in the following countries: Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, the Comoros, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The workshops will be staggered over the action plan's 3 years. • Extending support to 12 pilot schools for the teaching of national languages transcribed in QS at the general education grade levels (introduce the experiment in 1 model school every year in 1 of the targeted countries. The programme will run through the action plan's 3 years. • Holding a meeting of experts to assess the progress made under this focus area during the action plan's years. • Awarding the prize for QS use in literacy. • Awarding the prize for QS use in general education.

Area of intervention 2: supporting translation and cultural and journalistic publishing

The translation and publishing of many Islamic culture books in African languages transcribed in SQS, carried out over the past action plans, stands witness to the progress made in advancing the SQS project. The first editions of these translations were limited because of the use of manual typewriters. But when the project embarked on a qualitative leap towards the computerization of the Arabic African alphabet, broader horizons were opened before it in terms of alphabetic aesthetics, the possibilities of increasing or reducing font size, and the multiplicity of fonts, in line with modern printing techniques. The endeavor did not stop at the translation of heritage books but went beyond that to include the press, printed either partly or entirely in QS. The project of translation and journalistic and cultural publishing embodies a successful model of the application of QS at a practical level, accustoming speakers of African languages to the standardized Arabic script, documenting their attachment to their civilizational and cultural heritage, bringing this heritage within reach and making it available to the general public, and reclaiming the position that the Arabic script had lost after colonial powers imposed the Latin alphabet.

Expected outcome: popularizing Islamic written cultural heritage translated into local languages using QS, making it available to the public, familiarizing African languages speakers with the standardized Arabic alphabet and reinforcing their attachment to such heritage

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing written religious and cultural heritage translated into QS-written national languages, bring this heritage within grasp and ensure its availability to the general public. • Providing incentives to staff operating in cultural fields, build their capacities and train them on the modern techniques of writing national languages in QS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing, publishing and distribution of 12 books on Islamic culture into 15 languages (4 books per year). • Preparation and translation of 9 books on Islamic culture in 15 languages (3 books per year) • Awarding the Quranic Script Prize for translation and cultural publication. • Holding 3 sub-regional training sessions for journalists and technicians working in QS-based written press. • Supporting 6 journalistic institutions that publish in the QS. • Holding 1 experts meeting to assess progress made under the Action Plan in this focus area. • Awarding the Quranic Script Prize for journalistic publishing.

Area of intervention 3: localization of technical expertise to establish QS chairs at universities and educational institutions

Among the key objectives of this project is to localize and entrench the QS and its use in national institutions at the official and popular levels and make it a national and local preoccupation. In view of the illustrious position they hold in the collective psyche of peoples and the viable pioneering projects they carry out, universities and scientific research centers are at the forefront of the national institutions capable of fulfilling this strategic goal. To this end, ISESCO has established QS-dedicated chairs in several universities as part of its programmes and activities. ISESCO and its partners will further develop the programmes of these chairs to include scientific research fields and will create intermediate and higher diplomas, develop educational tangibles and tend to the preservation of manuscripts.

Expected outcome: localizing QS and entrenching its use at universities and higher education institutions through the creation of academic specialties, boosting the role of scientific research centers and encouraging them to develop QS-focused linguistic research

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing linguistic studies in national languages and link them to scientific research and higher education programmes at the targeted universities. • Translating and republish the QS-written manuscript cultural heritage and making it available to researchers and students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarding intermediate diplomas by holding 60 continuous training sessions at 20 universities, (20 sessions per year). • Allocation of 20 scholarships to African students to pursue a higher studies diploma at the International University of Africa.

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the availability of academic staff specialized in the Quranic script at university level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting 15 studies and printing them in the form of Master's theses on syntax, grammar and phonology of 15 targeted languages. Conducting 15 studies of about one 150 pages. This exercise is to be progressively implemented during the three years of the Action Plan at the rate of 1 study per language. Graduate students who have obtained a higher diploma in Quranic script will be designated to carry out these studies. Capturing the manuscript heritage with the help of computers, then translating, authenticating and printing these manuscripts (4 per year) Convening 1 meeting of experts to assess progress achieved under the Action Plan's years in this focus area. Awarding the Quranic Script Prize for the revival of manuscript heritage.

Area of intervention 4: QS computerization

In coordination with the International University of Africa, ISESCO developed a computer programme for the Arab-African alphabet in several steps through which the symbols of African scripts were designed, processed, graphically set and converted into digital presentations. Each letter was given a Unicode symbol and the new symbols were set out on the keyboard. This computer technique was subsequently used to print and publish about 50 Islamic culture books translated into African languages. Dozens of training sessions were organized and benefited to a large number of staff operating in literacy, general education, higher education, and cultural and journalistic publishing. At a later stage, a computer programme was developed to convert texts written in the Latin alphabet into the QS, thus creating a tool that would help those educated using the Latin script to peruse books printed in the QS and accordingly gain knowledge of the masterpieces of their heritage. Further development will be pursued of QS transcription systems and computer techniques will be used to facilitate reading and writing using this script, solve technical glitches related to the computer symbols of phonemes, and open wide horizons before the study of the linguistics of national languages.

Expected outcome: refining the QS and adapting it to the reading and writing of national languages in a scientific way that brings into play modern computer techniques

Performance Indicators	Measurement Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventing the technology that necessary for advanced and productive linguistic studies of QS-written national languages. Providing school curricula and electronic manuals related to teaching QS-written local languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of an electronic guidebook for reading and writing African languages as part of QS computerization for 20 African languages. Developing specific keyboards for 20 African languages as part of QS computerization. Design of specific keyboards for 20 African languages.