

4th Executive Council Session
Tishreen University - Lattakia, Syria
21-23 February 1999

Final Report

The Executive Council of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World held its 4th ordinary session in the precincts of Tishreen University, Lattakia, upon generous invitation from that University on 5-7 Zul Qida 1419H - 21-23 February 1999.

The members of the Executive Council took part in the Session's proceedings which were presided over by H.E. Dr. Abdulwahid Belakziz, Chairman of the Council and attended by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Secretary General of the Federation.

Opening session: Sunday, 21 February 1999 (Morning)

- 1- The opening session was attended by H.E. Dr. Salha Sanqar, Minister of Higher Education in the Syrian Arab Republic, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - ISESCO- and Secretary General of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World, H.E. Dr. Abdulwahid Belakziz, Chancellor of Mohamed V University - Agdal- President of the Federation's First Conference and Chairman of the Executive Council, H.E. Dr. Khalid Hallaj, Chancellor of Tishreen University, the members of the Executive Council and a host of personalities from the educational, scientific and cultural spheres in the Syrian Arab Republic.
- 2- Following recitation of some holy Quranic verses, H.E. Dr. Khaled Hallaj, President of Tishreen University took the floor and delivered an address in which he expressed his happiness to have the proceedings of the Federation's 4th Executive Council Session hosted by Tishreen University and wished the Session's every success in achieving its lofty objectives. He pointed out the development achieved by Tishreen University which was founded in 1971-72 with three colleges only; whereas it is made up now of thirteen colleges hosting thirty thousand students about 55% of them are females.
- 3- H.E. Dr. Abdulwahid Belakziz, Rector of Mohamed V University - Agdal, Chairman of the Federation's Executive Council took the floor and gave an address in the beginning of which he expressed his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the government of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the Chancellor of Tishreen University for the kind invitation extended to the members of the Executive Council to attend the proceedings of the 4th Executive Council Session held in the city of Lattakia. He started first by stressing the importance of the Session and recalled the outcomes of the First General Conference consisting in the increase of member universities,

adoption of university-twinship programme and adoption of the Federation's Action Plan 1998-2000. He then pointed out that the universities of the Islamic world enjoy large cooperation opportunities that should be seized to take up the challenges levelled by the forthcoming century. Finally, he concluded by emphasizing the necessity to connect education to the production sectors and to set up policies geared to openness onto the world cultures without prejudice to our cultural and historical identity.

- 4- H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- and Secretary General of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World delivered an address in the outset of which he expressed his heartfelt thanks to the president, government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic for the unflagging support extended to the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World materialized in the hosting by Syrian universities of two sessions of the Federation's Executive Council. He stressed the need for intensifying efforts with a view to securing adequate incentives to develop higher education and promote scientific research if we were to achieve comprehensive development and take up the challenges of the 21st century which would witness enormous scientific and technological development and would teem with global political and economic blocks. He, then, highlighted the role to be played by universities to foster cooperation and communication among them through further twinship and exchange of teachers, staff members and students.

He concluded his address by reiterating his thanks to the University of Tishreen and its Chancellor Dr. Khaled Hallaj for the warm welcoming and generous hospitality and wished the Council's proceedings full success.

- 5- Finally H.E. Dr. Salha Sunqur, Minister of Higher Education in the Syrian Arab Republic delivered an address in which she welcomed their Excellencies the members of the Executive Council and wished them happy stay and successful work. She asserted the importance given by the Syrian Arab Republic to higher education and scientific research as the basis of socio-economic development and civilizational promotion of the Arab and Muslim personality. She further highlighted the tremendous development witnessed by the Syrian universities to keep pace with the requirements of the modern time.
- 6- At the end of the opening session, the Federation's Shield was offered by H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Secretary General of the Federation to H.E. Dr. Salha Sanqar, Minister of Higher Education in the Syrian Arab Republic, as part of recognition of her untiring efforts to promote higher education. The Federation's Shield was also offered to H.E. Dr. Khalid Hallaj, Chancellor of Tishreen University in token of the Federation's gratitude for the hosting of the 4th Executive Council Session.

Working session: Sunday, 21 February 1999

**Item (1) of the agenda
Adoption of the agenda
(Document: FUIW/CE 4/99/1)**

- 7- The members of the Executive Council took cognizance of the Draft Agenda, and adopted it as per document attached (Document: FUIW/CE 4/99/1) and took the following decision in connection thereof:

**Decision on item 1 of the draft agenda
(Draft agenda)
FUIW/CE4/99/D1**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article 12, paragraph (a) of the Statutes,
- Having considered the draft agenda of the ongoing fourth session of the Council,
- Considering the discussions which have taken place,

Decides the following:

- Adopts the agenda of its fourth session contained in document FUIW/CE4/99/1.

**Item (2) of the agenda
Adoption of the Programme
(Document: FUIW/CE 4/99/2)**

- 8- Having taken cognizance of the 4th Session's Draft Programme, the members of the Executive Council Adopted (Document FUIW/CE4/99 D2). Then they took the following decision:

**Decision on item 2 of the draft agenda
(Draft programme)
FUIW/CE4/99/D2**

The Executive Council,

- Considering decision FUIW/CE4/99/1 adopted by the Council concerning the agenda of its ongoing fourth session,
- Having considered the draft programme of this session contained in document FUIW/CE4/99/2,
- Considering the discussions which have taken place,

Decides the following:

- Adopts the programme of its fourth session contained in document FUIW/CE4/99/2.

Item (3) of the agenda
Secretary General's Report on the Federation's Activities
between the Federation's 3rd and 4th Council Sessions
(Document: FUIW/CE 4/99/3)

9- The Secretary General presented his report on the Federation's activities between the Third and Fourth Executive Council Sessions. He gave account of the activities implemented under the Federation's Action Plan 1998-2000, highlighting the outstanding accomplishments achieved by the Federation within its fields of competence. He affirmed that the remarkable increase in the number of universities joining the Federation pointed to the interest developed by the universities of the Islamic world in deep-seating the principle of cooperation and communication among them.

The Secretary General's Report on the Federation's Activities between the Third and Fourth Executive Council Sessions included 12 axes. Each axis presented full details of activities implemented under the Federation's Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000.

Among the most important activities addressed are the following:

1. Activity 1.2 (Publishing a Guide to the Universities of the Islamic World)
2. Activity 1.3 (Publishing Federation's Journal)
3. Activity 1.6 (Exchange of teachers among member universities)
4. Activity 1.7 (Publishing Federation's Newsletter)

Further still, the Secretary General's report highlighted the cooperation relations linking the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World with other federations. In this connection, cooperation agreements were signed with the Federation of African Universities and Texas International Education Consortium with the purpose to laying down the legal groundbase for cooperation among the federations for the promotion of their activities and programmes.

Following deliberations, the Council took the following decision:

Decision on item 3 of the draft agenda
(Report of the Secretary General on the Federation's
activities between the 3rd and 4th Sessions
of the Executive Council)
FUIW/CE4/99/D3

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article 4 and article 12 and in particular paragraph e of the Statutes,
- Having heard the presentation made by the Secretary General,
- Having noticed the remarkable progress in the activities of the General Secretariat especially those relating to supplying the Universities libraries with ISESCO's publications, the publishing of a news bulletin, the magazine of the Federation and

the Guide of the Islamic World Universities as well as the provision of scholarships to students etc...

- Considering the discussions which have taken place, the views and observations put forward by the Council members,

Decides the following:

1. Adopts the report of the Secretary General on the activities of the General Secretariat of the Federation contained in document FUIW/CE4/99/3.
2. Thanks the Secretary General for his great efforts in asserting the role of the Federation at the international level, in cooperating with similar federations as well as in increasing the number of Member Universities of the Federation.
3. Pays tribute to the efforts exerted by the Secretary General and his assistants in implementing the Federation's activities planned for 1998.
4. Agrees to submit the report to the next General Conference and recommends its adoption.

**Item (4) of the agenda
Examination of applications by universities
and institutes to join the Federation
(Document: FUIW/CE 4/99/4)**

- 10- The Council considered the list of 16 universities applying for membership of the Federation. Pursuant to the recommendation issued by the General Secretariat on approval of these universities' applications as they met all membership conditions, the Council approved of their membership and took the following decision in connection thereof:

**Decision on item 4 of the draft agenda
(Examination of applications by universities
and high institutes to join the Federation)
FUIW/CE4/99/D4**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article 5 paragraphs (a) and (b) and article 10, paragraph (e) of the Statutes,
- Having considered the list of universities which have submitted their applications to join the Federation, numbering 16 universities,
- Considering that the General Secretariat of the Federation has recommended the acceptance of those universities as they have met the membership conditions,
- Considering the discussions which have taken place,

Decides the following:

1. Adopts the acceptance of the universities mentioned in document FUIW/CE4/99/4 in the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World.
2. Thanks the Secretary General and his assistants for their efforts in developing the Federation and increasing the number of Member Universities therein.
3. Recommends that the General Secretariat of the Federation pursue its efforts in inviting other universities in the Muslim World to join the Federation.
4. Recommends that the General Secretariat of the Federation presents a draft amendment of the fifth article of the Statute to the next session of the Executive Council including a more precise conditions of membership so that it will be submitted to the next General Conference.
5. Includes this item in the agenda of the next session of the 2nd General Conference of the Federation and recommends that it adopt the said document FUIW/CE4/99/4.

**Item (5) of the agenda
Examination of ways and means of
financing the activities of the Federation
(Document: FUIW/CE 4/99/5)**

- 11- The Executive Council examined Document FUIW/CE4/99/5 and took note of the severe difficulties faced by the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World in implementing the activities set out in the Three-Year Action Plan 1998-2000 as adopted by the First General Conference. In fact, the General Secretariat of the Federation received contributions of only 40 universities out of 129, despite constant reminders to Member Universities to settle their contributions to enable implementation of the activities, on the one hand, and to help promote cooperation bonds among universities on the other. After deliberation, the Council took the following decision:

**Decision on item 5 of the draft agenda
(Examination of ways and means of
financing the activities of the Federation)
FUIW/CE4/99/D5**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with article 10, paragraph (c) of the Statutes,
- Considering that the majority of the Member Universities of the Federation have not settled their financial contributions for 1998, and prior to that date.
- Considering the discussions which have taken place,

Decides the following:

1. Thanks the Member Universities which have settled their contributions for 1998 and urges the other universities to do so.
2. Invites the President of the 1st General Conference, Chairman of the Executive Council to send a letter in this respect to the Member Universities which have not

settled their contributions to urge them to do so regularly and to settle their arrears if any.

3. Invites the Secretary General to pursue his efforts to secure additional resources for the Federation through cooperation with universities and federations of universities in implementing the activities of the Federation.
4. Includes this item in the next session of the Executive Council.

**Item (6) of the agenda
Planning for implementing activities
scheduled for 1999
(Document FUIW/CE4/99/6)**

- 12- The Council noted with satisfaction the steps undertaken by the General Secretariat to implement Activity 4.1 (Holding symposium on University Scientific Research and the sectors of production and development) in October 1999 in cooperation with Al-Zaituna University in Tunis and within its precincts. The Council also expressed gratitude to the invitation extended by Dr. Khaled Al-Oumari, Chancellor of the Jordanian Jerash University, Rapporteur of the Executive Council, to host the Summer Festival organized for talented university students leaders (Activity 6.2) in concertation with the Federation's General Secretariat.

**Item (7) of the agenda
Date and venue of the 5th Session
of the Executive Council
(Document FUIW/CE4/99/7)**

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

**Decision on item 7 of the agenda
(Date and venue of the 5th Session
of the Executive Council)
FUIW/CE4/99/D7**

The Executive Council,

- In accordance with the provisions of article 9 of the Statutes,
- Having considered document FUIW/CE4/99/7,
- In accordance with the kind invitation by the Chancellor of the Azad Islamic University, Tehran to host the next session of the Executive Council,

Decides the following:

- Holds its 5th Session in the first half of April 2000 at the Azad Islamic University, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Addresses thanks to the Chancellor of Azad Islamic University, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran for the kind invitation.

Closing session: Tuesday, 23 February 1999

- 14- The Council devoted its closing session to the examination of the Final Report which was adopted afterwards. At the close of the session, H.E. Dr. Abdulwahid Belakziz, Chairman of the Executive Council took the floor and thanked the members of the Executive Council for their kind cooperation in examining the documents submitted to them and in taking appropriate decisions thereupon. The Federation's Secretary General, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri delivered, also, an address in which he thanked the Chairman and members of the Executive Council and expressed his appreciation for Tishreen University and its Chancellor, H.E. Dr. khaled Hallaj for the generous hospitality and excellent steering of the Session's proceedings.
- 15- Upon termination of its proceedings, the Executive Council addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to His Excellency President Hafez Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic for the generous hosting of the Council Session and for his unfailing support to the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World. The Council also expressed the pride it had taken in the great accomplishments achieved under His Excellency's wise leadership and affirmed its solidarity with the efforts exerted by the Syrian Arab Republic to establish a just and comprehensive peace and to safeguard the Nation's rights and dignity.